

EC urges spirit of Mideast compromise

COPENHAGEN (R) — European Community (EC) leaders welcomed the resumption of Middle East peace talks between Arabs and Israelis and urged all sides to press ahead "in a spirit of good will and compromise." At the end of a two-day summit in Copenhagen (see page 10), the 12 leaders reiterated in a statement that the EC "would continue to play an active, constructive and balanced part in the Middle East peace process." The European Council welcomed the resumption of the bilateral talks aimed at a just, lasting and comprehensive settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Palestinian question, the EC leaders said in a statement. "It urged all parties concerned to build on the results already achieved and to press ahead with substantive negotiations in a spirit of good will and compromise," the statement said. The EC leaders appealed to all sides to "refrain from all actions which could undermine the peace process."

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Turkish minister to visit Jordan

AMMAN (R) — Turkish Foreign Minister Hikmet Cetin will visit Jordan Sunday for talks on bilateral relations, trade and regional issues, the embassy said on Tuesday. It will be the first official visit to the Kingdom by a Turkish foreign minister in 13 years. An embassy official said Mr. Cetin would hold talks with His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, and other officials before leaving for Israel Tuesday. Jordanian-Turkish trade is worth about \$20 million a year and made up mostly of Turkish exports to Jordan which have increased in the past year due to higher sales of building materials. Late last year Jordan and Turkey eased visa restrictions for each other's citizens, ending the need to apply for visas in advance.

Troops destroy cannabis in eastern Lebanon

BTIDEE, Lebanon (R) — Lebanese police said on Tuesday troops had destroyed about half the 1,000 hectares of cannabis growing in eastern Lebanon's Bekaa Valley in the past two weeks. Bekaa police chief Brigadier Fawzi Sema'an told reporters the joint Syrian-Lebanese drive to wipe out the growing of drugs in Lebanon would continue "until the last plant is eradicated." He said: "We will not allow the cultivation of any kind of narcotic crops from now on." Brig. Sema'an added that Lebanese troops and police and Syrian soldiers would plough the fields under.

Babangida council to meet on poll crisis

LAGOS (R) — Military President Ibrahim Babangida's top decision-making council is scheduled to meet on Wednesday to discuss Nigeria's political crisis following the June 12 presidential election. "The National Defence and Security Council (NDSC) is meeting tomorrow to review the political situation and take a decision in the light of conflicting signals from various courts," said an official statement issued in Abuja, the capital, on Tuesday. The meeting will coincide with an appeal court bearing in northern Kaduna city on a lower court order that blocked the release last week of final election results.

Ben Ali seeks better Europe ties

STRASBOURG (AP) — Tunisian President Zine Al Abidine Ben Ali Tuesday pressed for closer ties between the European Community (EC) and North Africa, to stem poverty there and immigration to Europe. Speaking at the European Parliament, Mr. Ben Ali urged the EC to study North Africa's economic potential "with a view to concluding a contract ... of cooperation based on a political, economic, social and cultural partnership." He told the EC's 518-seat assembly, "it is in the interest of neither side that the European Community should be a closed fortress."

Sudan orders consulates closed

KHARTOUM (AP) — In a sign of worsening relations with Egypt, Sudan on Tuesday gave Egypt's government one week to close its consulates at port Sudan and Al Obeid. Omar Yousef Bridou, under-secretary of the Foreign Ministry, told reporters here that Sudan also instructed its ambassador in Cairo to close Sudan's consulates in the Egyptian cities of Alexandria and Aswan. The announcement was unexpected since the two countries' foreign ministers held private meetings this week in Cairo on bilateral problems, particularly a border dispute. Egyptian foreign minister Amr Musa and his Sudanese counterpart, Hussein Suleiman Abu Saleh, met during an Organisation of African Unity conference (see Balaib story on page 10).

Guerrillas attack SLA posts

MARJAYOUN (AP) — Guerrillas mounted two separate attacks against Israeli-affiliated militiamen in south Tuesday. Security sources said no casualties were reported in either assault on the South Lebanon Army (SLA) positions.

King: Jordan seeks comprehensive peace

Palestinian delegates are courageous ● No separate peace agreement with Israel ● Baghdad regime has made enough mistakes, Jordan wishes democracy in Iraq

Combined agency dispatches

JORDAN WILL not sign a peace agreement with Israel until progress is made in negotiations with Palestinians, His Majesty King Hussein has said Monday.

Asked about recent Israeli claims that Jordan was on the verge of signing an agreement with Israel, King Hussein told a group of journalists in Washington that Jordan was waiting for "some progress in the Palestinian-Israeli track."

"We thought that we will see some progress, we have not seen very much of that," King Hussein said. "What is missing is clearly some idea of what the ultimate solution is going to be."

King Hussein's visit to Washington coincided with the 10th round of Arab-Israeli peace talks being held in the U.S. capital. But in 20 months, the talks have produced no tangible progress.

The King said Jordan had not violated in any way the U.N. sanctions still on Iraq.

"I'd like to say very categorically that Jordan is abiding the U.N. Security Council resolutions with the fullest possible rule."

"I wish for ... the Iraqi people a chance to enjoy a true democracy."

The King also reiterated that his country never approved of Iraq's invasion of Kuwait, but simply tried to resolve the crisis peacefully.

"We sought to reverse what happened peacefully," he said. "We were never supportive of invasion of any country by any country in the region."

"We don't see eye to eye with the leadership of Iraq," the Monarch said, adding that he wished the Iraqi people had the chance to express themselves freely.

Asked if Iraq was mending its relations with Arab countries, King Hussein said it was not yet clear.

"I don't want to personalise the issue," he said.

"Only time will tell (...) but Iraq itself with its millions of people is very important, I wish for Iraq national reconciliation, I wish for the Iraqi people a chance to enjoy democracy and plurality, to be able to join the Arab nations as soon as possible."

King Hussein said he wants the Iraqi people to enjoy democratic rule.

The King said he had never backed the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait but had tried to avert war

in the region by urging the United States and its allies not to interfere.

"We made it very clear to the Iraqi leadership, in the past and immediately after the end of the hostilities, that enough is enough and that the Iraqi people should convert it into reality.

"Thirty four years have passed since I first visited this city and had the chance to visit the U.S. and I feel encouraged and enthusiastic ... I have never felt (so) during any of the previous visits.

"I wish Mr. Clinton all the success in the coming years and wish him success concerning the expectations and hopes we all feel for him and for the U.S., the unique position that it enjoys in the world..

"The time is now the end of spring and the beginning of summer and for our relations it is the beginning of spring, once again with our friends in the U.S.; a friendship that has lasted for years, a friendship on the basis that we are friends and committed to support the same ideas and principles, and we are seeking to maintain them and achieve something that is worth the trouble for the sake of future generations.

On Jordan's democratic march and the Election Law, he said: "I would like to say that throughout all these years we have tried to

and determination to contribute personally as we hope the U.S. would help all the concerned parties in the region to move ahead towards the dream that we have and convert it into reality.

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On Jordan's democratic march and the Election Law, he said: "I would like to say that throughout all these years we have tried to

written storms and to face up to challenges and we have put all of our faith and our hopes in our people, regardless of their origins, members of the Jordanian family.

"In our neighbourhood we have been on the receiving end of the damage caused by early disasters that have befallen the area and we have absorbed the damage caused by every upheaval throughout the history of our country. But with faith and courage, with dedication I believe we have come a long way. Our basic commitment (is) to the future of the region is through making Jordan an example to others. Some may not like that, some may view it with suspicion, but we believe in the human being, we believe in his worth, we believe in his rights. So when it was possible to return to what we have begun or inherited in terms of democracy, we did so following the disengagement of legal and administrative ties with the West Bank in response to Palestinian, Arab and Islamic demands. We decided to return to parliamentary life and we held elections which by all accounts are the freest and cleanest yet in our region.

"We also felt that it was imperative that we get all schools of political thought in Jordan to come together and to enter a dialogue so we established a Royal Commission, which within nine months of hard work (with) people representing all schools from the extreme right to the extreme left managed to produce a National Charter which was adopted by the country as a whole based on the respect of the Constitution and outlining and defining the routes that all of us will take into the future.

"Now it is almost the end of the four years of the Jordanian Parliament and pretty soon we will be preparing for fresh elections.

"There discussion about the possibility of some changes to the electoral law and this will happen as a result of a dialogue between, again, all the schools of political thought that put together the National Charter and the time is ahead as we all look and prepare for the elections later in this year at the new facts that have emerged in Jordan in terms of between 300,000 to 400,000 Jordanians who returned to the country and who are now eligible (Continued on page 3)

Arabs and Israelis assail each other as talks resume

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — Arab-Israeli peace talks resumed here Tuesday with Israeli and Arab negotiators at the Middle East peace talks blaming each other for the lack of progress.

Israeli and Palestinian delegations failed last week to agree on a declaration of common principles on autonomous Palestinian authority in the occupied territories.

The talks reached an impasse over the status of Jerusalem.

While Israeli and Syrian negotiators discussed for the first time possible security arrangements, they remained locked in their debate over the question of peace in exchange for Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights.

The chief Palestinian negotiator at the talks, Haidar Abdul Shafi, who has questioned the Palestinian participation in the talks, said that the Palestinians should withdraw from discussions because they had lost "credibility and were going nowhere."

Israeli spokeswoman Ruth Yaron said Tuesday that "it was way too early to call off the talks ... Israel has made some very substantial offers to the Palestinians who have not even begun to discuss them seriously."

Ms. Yaron said the Palestinians have tried to change the ground rules established during the Madrid conference in October 1991.

"The current round of talks are important but I think it will be impossible to reach a declaration of common principles" as long as there are strong differences of opinion on the status of Jerusalem and Israeli settlements in the occupied territories, Dr. Abdul Shafi said.

KHARTOUM (AP) — In a sign of worsening relations with Egypt, Sudan on Tuesday gave Egypt's government one week to close its consulates at port Sudan and Al Obeid. Omar Yousef Bridou, under-secretary of the Foreign Ministry, told reporters here that Sudan also instructed its ambassador in Cairo to close Sudan's consulates in the Egyptian cities of Alexandria and Aswan. The announcement was unexpected since the two countries' foreign ministers held private meetings this week in Cairo on bilateral problems, particularly a border dispute. Egyptian foreign minister Amr Musa and his Sudanese counterpart, Hussein Suleiman Abu Saleh, met during an Organisation of African Unity conference (see Balaib story on page 10).

Guerrillas attack SLA posts

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to question for the first time continuing the talks because of the lack of progress.

"If we do not obtain anything after this tenth round it is possible that each side (Israeli and Syrian) will be forced to decide whether it is worthwhile to continue," Jacques Neria, an Israeli negotiator and diplomatic advisor to Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, said.

Syria's chief negotiator with Israel, Mouaffak Allaf, said progress in peace talks with Israel was "impossible" as long as it refused to pledge a total pullout from the occupied Arab territories.

Mr. Allaf, in statements published Tuesday by the government newspaper Tishrin, also hoped the United States would play a "honest broker role" at the opportune moment to force Israel to implement Security Council Resolution 242.

"It will be impossible to make progress in the peace talks as long as the Israelis don't pledge a total pullout" from the territories it has occupied since the 1967 war," Mr. Allaf said.

Eliakim Rubinstein, head of Israel's delegation, told AFP there were no significant developments in his follow-up consultations with State Department officials about last week's negotiations.

The deputy chief of the Palestinian delegation, Saeb Erekat, said for his part that "the U.S. and Palestinian concepts diverge on all the aspects of the peace process" and that there had been no progress during their contacts over the extended weekend:

The stalled Israeli-Syrian talks led an Israeli negotiator Monday

OAU seeks funds for 'conflict resolution'

CAIRO (AP) — Foreign ministers of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) Tuesday approved setting up a fund for a conflict-solving mechanism for the African continent, an OAU official announced.

Ahmad Haggag, The OAU's assistant secretary-general, told reporters that it was seeking voluntary contributions from African nations and foreign sources.

Outside contributors will have to agree in advance, however, that the OAU will decide how and where the funds will be used, he said. No amount was specified.

The mechanism still must be approved by the OAU heads of state, who will begin their summit next Monday.

Just how successful such a fund-raising drive will be is questionable. OAU members are some \$62 million in arrears on their membership fees, the organisation says. Creation of the conflict-resolution mechanism — which could involve mediation or arbitration of civil conflicts — has been a pet project of OAU Secretary-General Salim Ahmed Salim.

He developed the idea because the group has been widely criticised for its inability to help resolve African conflicts, which include civil wars in Rwanda, Somalia, Liberia, Angola, Mozambique and Sudan.

The delegates fear that relief and rebuilding assistance to Somalia met Tuesday to decide what to do following this month's deadly fighting in Mogadishu.

Admiral Jonathan Howe, the U.N. special envoy in Somalia, opened the donor's conference trying to reassure delegates that Somalia and its capital would be made secure for relief and rehabilitation work.

"We are going to get on with it," he said. "He (fugitive warlord Mohammad Farrah Aideed) is marginalised. We will protect the people that are operating in his neighbourhood where we feel there is a threat. But the rest of the country isn't going to be penalised."

Some private relief groups and donors said they would ask Adm. Howe to be specific about security, among other things they want to know whether they would have escorts and whether their guards

would be allowed to arm themselves.

The delegates fear that relief and rebuilding assistance to Somalia met Tuesday to decide what to do following this month's deadly fighting in Mogadishu.

"The admiral is very optimistic," Germany's envoy to Somalia, Axel Weisshaupl, said after Adm. Howe's speech. "It made me feel a little better, but we still have a lot of questions."

Ninety delegates from donor countries, the United Nations and private relief organisations attended the daylong conference at U.N. headquarters outside the Kenyan capital, Nairobi.

Delegates said discussion centred on the setback that feeding and other humanitarian work has suffered since fighting broke out in Mogadishu on June 5, killing 29 Pakistani peacekeepers and dozens of Somalis.

Mogadishu was quiet but tense Tuesday as a food aid operation picked up pace and Somalis waited to see whether the U.N.

would carry out its pledge to arrest General Aideed.

Tonnes of wheat were distributed to thousands of displaced people under heavy security at seven sites in southern Mogadishu, Gen. Aideed's stronghold.

This was one more site than on the first full day of the resumed operation Monday, but still left 18 points without food distribution because of security fears.

Destitute people in the areas without food distribution were walking long distances to the functioning sites to obtain a bucketful of grain, aid workers said, with up to 5,000 turning up at some points.

They said that within a couple of days they hoped to be able to resume handouts at all 25 centres in the south of the city.

The aid operation was suspended after the June 5 attacks.

These attacks and an incident on June 13 in which some 20

demonstrating Somalis died in a clash with Pakistani troops led Adm. Howe to order Gen. Aideed's arrest.

In Karlsruhe, Germany, Germany's highest court began hearing a bid on Tuesday by the country's opposition Social Democratic Party to force German troops to withdraw from the United Nations mission in Somalia.

The suit was the SPD's second attempt since April to limit a growing German military role by asking the court to rule the mission unconstitutional, and reflected a growing tendency for political battles to be fought in the courtroom.

The eight red-robed judges of the constitutional court began by considering whether the SPD had a legal basis for the suit. A "no" would bring the case to a speedy end.

China seeks boosted ties with Gulf

ABU DHABI (AFP) — China has sent a high-level delegation to the oil-rich Gulf to attract investment and explore new markets for its exports as it presses ahead with liberalisation of its economy.

The delegation, headed by Chinese Vice-Premier for Foreign Trade Li Lanqing, arrived Monday in Kuwait and will visit the other five members of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) as well as Iran in a two-week tour.

In Kuwait Mr. Li told the official KUNA news agency his visit was aimed at examining ways of bolstering bilateral relations with the Gulf countries, namely economic ties.

Chinese diplomats to the region said the delegation, the highest ranking mission to come to the Gulf in several years, would discuss joint industrial ventures, mainly in oil and petrochemicals, and boosting trade.

"China is eager to attract investment from this region, which

has yet to exploit the vast Chinese market," a diplomatic source said.

"The delegation will explain investment opportunities and invite investors to visit China. It will also study market needs and how can China meet them."

The bulk of the GCC investments abroad, estimated at over \$250 billion, are based in the West but there have been calls to enter other markets after currency fluctuation and market instability caused them large losses.

Although China is a relative newcomer to the Gulf markets, its trade with the GCC countries — Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Oman, Qatar, Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) — has steadily increased over the past decade.

According to official Gulf figures, Chinese exports to the GCC rose to \$840 million in 1992 from \$340 million in 1983 while imports surged to \$540 million from \$135 million.

Most of the GCC exports to China are fertilizers while imports are mainly textiles and clothes, foodstuffs and light industrial products.

But such an exchange is a fraction of the GCC's trade with major industrial powers, such as Japan and the European Community. It stood at \$35 billion and \$34 billion respectively in 1991.

In a recent study, the Doha-based Gulf Organisation for Industrial Consultancy (GOIC) proposed the creation of a joint Sino-GCC commission to increase trade and encourage industrial investment.

"There is a wide scope for such cooperation as both sides have common interests like hydrocarbons, fertilizers, petrochemicals and aluminum," GOIC Secretary General Abdulla Rahmat Al Jassar said in the study.

The two sides held a conference in Peking in October and agreed to boost economic and trade cooperation. The meeting

was part of a GCC drive to obtain technology through agreements with industrial countries.

In an article Tuesday, the UAE daily Al Khaleej urged GCC countries to take advantage of what it called the economic achievements in China, where trade reached \$165 billion in 1992 and more free zones were created.

"Despite the large economic achievements in China, we have not seen any efforts in the region to bolster economic links between the two sides as Gulf businessmen are still heading westwards," it said.

"China has supported all Arab causes during the 1960s and the 1970s and this is a good ground to exploit. China has taken the initiative by sending its vice premier to the region. Can we seize this opportunity and boost our relations with this old friend and benefit from its unique experience in development in self-reliance?"



Police officers Tuesday lead Mohammad Salah, 39, a Palestinian-American, to an Israeli military court (AFP photo)

Arab American pleads innocent to funding Hamas

RAMALLAH, occupied West Bank (AP) — An Arab American Tuesday pleaded innocent to charges he bankrolled Muslim militants in the occupied territories and paid for their weapons.

Mohammad Salah, 39, a Chicago resident of Palestinian origin, was indicted on charges of funneling \$650,000 to activists of the Muslim fundamentalist group Hamas.

"I should be free. They have nothing against me," Mr. Salah said before the start of his military court trial.

Mr. Salah confessed to some charges during interrogation, but defense attorney Avigdor Feldman told reporters the statement was extracted illegally and should not be admitted as evidence.

In his confession, Mr. Salah reportedly named Arab-American groups in Arlington and Springfield, Virginia, as fronts for Hamas, and gave details to Hamas activists in the United States.

Mr. Salah and another Palestinian-American, Mohammad Jarad, 35, were arrested on Jan. 25 on suspicion of funneling money to rebuild Hamas. In December, the group had suffered a blow when nearly 400 of its activists were expelled to Lebanon.

Mr. Jarad, who suffers from congenital heart disease, pleaded guilty last week and was sentenced to six months in prison. With time served before his sentencing, Mr. Jarad is expected to be released next month.

Mr. Salah, wearing glasses and a salt-and-pepper beard, stood quietly in the dock Tuesday as the judge, Lieutenant-Colonel Yitzhak Mina, read the charges in Hebrew and a clerk translated into Arabic.

"The defendant denies all accusations against him," Mr. Feldman said when asked by Col. Mina to enter a plea. Outside the

court, in response to questions, Mr. Feldman would not rule out an eventual plea bargain.

The indictment said that at the time of Mr. Salah's arrest, he had already handed out \$60,000 and another \$100,000 were found in his Jerusalem hotel room.

Mr. Salah, a used car dealer who has lived outside the West Bank for more than 20 years, denied the accusations Tuesday, saying he had come to distribute alms collected from Palestinian Americans.

"They should give me the Nobel Peace Prize for leaving my home and coming here to help the poor people," Mr. Salah, dressed in a brown prison uniform, told reporters from the dock.

The indictment also said that in August 1992, Mr. Salah paid \$36,000 to Hamas activists in the occupied territories to establish an armed guerrilla force. It said Hamas leaders used some of the money to buy seven guns.

Mr. Salah said his Shin Bet secret service interrogators kept trying to link him to the slaying of Nusim Toledano, an Israeli policeman who was abducted and killed by militants in December.

The kidnaping and slaying set off an uproar in Israel, and the government responded by expelling more than 400 suspected Muslim militants to Lebanon.

The next session in the Salah trial is scheduled for Aug. 1, and Mr. Feldman said the first issue on the agenda would be the admissibility of Mr. Salah's confession.

Mr. Salah's brother, Ibrahim, of the West Bank refugee camp of Kalandia, charged after the hearing that Israel was exploiting the country's poor U.N. protection when the communist regime collapsed in April last year, has been holed up in a United Nations compound since then.

NEWS IN BRIEF

S. Korea asks Peres not to visit N. Korea

SEOUL (R) — South Korean Foreign Minister Han Sung-Joo has asked his Israeli counterpart, Shimon Peres, to refrain from visiting communist North Korea, a Seoul foreign ministry official said Tuesday. Mr. Han told Mr. Peres when the two men met in Vienna last week it was not desirable for a minister of Mr. Peres's standing to visit Pyongyang at a time when the international community was pressing North Korea to accept inspection of its suspected nuclear facilities. "Peres promised Han he would consult with the (South) Korean government prior to any contacts with North Korea," the official said. He said Israel was proposing a visit to North Korea, one of the world's most reclusive states, to persuade Pyongyang not to sell missiles to Iran. South Korea suspects Pyongyang of hiding atomic bombs or developing a nuclear device. North Korea denies the charge but has refused to open two suspected nuclear sites to international inspection. Mr. Han and Mr. Peres met last week at a United Nations human rights conference in Vienna.

3 killed, one injured in Sahara plane crash

SYDNEY (AP) — An Australian army doctor and two other United Nations personnel were killed when their small airplane crashed while taking off in Western Sahara, the Australian Defence Force said Tuesday. Killed in the crash on Monday was Major Susan Felsche, 32, of Brisbane. The identities and nationalities of the plane's pilot and a technician who also died, as well as a nurse who was injured but survived, were not immediately available. The cause of the crash at Awdard, 500 kilometres south of the town of Laayoune, is being investigated by a U.N. board of inquiry. A defence force statement said Maj. Felsche was the first female Australian soldier killed on overseas military duty since World War II. The four were part of a U.N. operation in Western Sahara, a former Spanish colony on the northwest coast of Africa which has suffered years of strife since neighbouring Morocco annexed it in 1979. The United Nations first sent forces there in 1991.

South African emigration to Israel soars

TEL AVIV (AP) — Emigration of South African Jews to Israel is soaring as fears grow of civil war between blacks and whites after next year's general elections, the Jewish Agency said Tuesday. The semi-government body which manages immigration said 100 South African Jews settled in Israel in 1991, 250 last year and 2,000 were expected for 1993. "Many Jewish families in South Africa are considering leaving and a good number want to settle in England, Australia, New Zealand or Canada," Uri Gordon, a director of the agency, told AFP. But Mr. Gordon expects a great many more South Africans will also choose Israel in 1994 who elections are set for April. The agency counts some 90,000 Jews with South African nationality and another 25,000 Israelis living in the country. The South African Zionist Federation last week launched a campaign to raise \$500,000 to help Jewish immigrants from South Africa overcome financial troubles and stay in Israel. Fund director Herzl Katz said many among the 17,000 Jews in Israel from South Africa are considering leaving, particularly those dependent on income linked to the falling rand. Most of the 17,000 settled in Israel in two waves after troubles between blacks and whites in 1978 and 1986.

U.N. representative arrives in Kabul

KABUL (AP) — United Nations special representative on Afghanistan Sozib Mousouris arrived here Tuesday for a one-day visit during which Afghan officials said he would discuss the fate of former communist President Najibullah. Mr. Mousouris, accompanied by a representative of the World Health Organisation (WHO) and two United Nations staff members, arrived by special flight from Pakistan and was expected to go straight to a meeting with Afghan President Burhanuddin Rabbani. "One of the main points of discussion will be the fate of Mr. Najibullah... the U.N. will not remain indifferent in this regard any more," a foreign ministry protocol officer said. Mr. Najibullah, who tried but failed to leave the country under U.N. protection when the communist regime collapsed in April last year, has been holed up in a United Nations compound since then.

15 feared drowned in accident in southern Egypt

ASSUIT, Egypt (AP) — Five Coptic Christian students drowned and 10 others were missing and feared dead after their van was hit by a truck and plunged into a river in southern Egypt, officials said Tuesday. The accident happened in Assuit, a hotbed of Islamic extremism 32 kilometres south of Cairo. But Assuit Governor Sameeh Al Sayed denied that the accident was related to Muslim extremist violence. The extremists, who are fighting to turn Egypt into an Islamic state, have targeted police, members of Egypt's Coptic minority and foreign tourists. Recently, their tactics have changed to setting off nail-packed bombs in areas crowded with Egyptians. The governor said the van, carrying male and female students at a Coptic religious school, was hit by a tractor-trailer and knocked into the Ibramimia River. Four students were rescued, five bodies were found and a search continued for the vehicle's 10 other occupants.

Juppe to visit Saudi Arabia early July

PARIS (AP) — French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe will visit Saudi Arabia for two days at the beginning of July, a ministry spokesman announced Monday. It will be Mr. Juppe's first trip to the Middle East since he became foreign minister in April after the parliamentary elections.

Morocco ratifies 4 U.N. rights conventions

RABAT (R) — Morocco has ratified four U.N. human rights conventions, including one banning discrimination against women, the foreign ministry said Monday. In the statement the ministry said the kingdom had also ratified United Nations conventions against torture and other cruel, inhuman and degrading treatments on children's rights and another on migrant workers' rights. Foreign ministry spokesman including Amnesty International have accused Morocco of failing to apply human rights conventions which it had signed but not ratified. Ratification of the conventions follows the inclusion of respect for universally-accepted human rights in the preamble of a new constitution written by King Hassan and adopted by referendum last September.

Crackdown on women is duty — Rafsanjani

TEHRAN (Agencies) — Iranian President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani has justified a crackdown against women accused of violating the Islamic dress code, describing it a "duty" equal in importance to praying and fast-ing.

M. Rafsanjani spoke Monday as Iranian security forces rounded up hundreds of women, confiscated cars and closed boutiques as part of a campaign against "social corruption."

"Stopping people from doing what is contrary to Islamic precepts is a duty for Shiism equal in importance to praying and the Ramadan fast," said Mr. Rafsanjani, who was reelected to a four-year mandate earlier this month.

He described people who violate Islam's strict rules as "sick" and said that security forces were "like doctors who are trying to cure (patients) and guide them on the right path."

Analysts said the crackdown

was the biggest in several years.

The security forces set up checkpoints in several areas of the Iranian capital, namely in the wealthy northern suburbs, where many women tried to resist arrest, cried and pleaded with the police to let them go.

The police force would also ensure "inappropriately-covered women are denied service" in all public and commercial places.

Iran has been ruled by Islamic law since the 1979 revolution which toppled the pro-Western Shah. Under the strict dress code women have the option of wearing the black chador or long raincoats and scarves.

The penalty for improper dress or too much make-up can be beatings but is more often a verbal or written warning and fines.

Mosday's operations have triggered concern among Iranians and Westerners in Tehran as well as indignant reactions from some passers-by who witnessed arrests.

Police announced the cam-paign Sunday and said women offenders would be arrested from Tuesday, first day of the Shi'ite Muslim mooring month of Muharram.

32 'extremists' charged in Egypt military court

CAIRO (Agencies) — A military prosecutor Tuesday charged 32 suspected Muslim extremists with attacks on police and Christian-owned jewellery stores in which five people died. The death penalty was demanded for most of them.

The trial for the defendants opens Saturday in military court. Military courts already have sentenced 22 Egyptians to death in connection with an 18-month extremist campaign to topple the country's secular government.

The indictment, released to the press, says that the 32 defendants belong to an illegal organisation known as Al Shawkeen which aims at imposing Islamic rule on Egypt.

Six other people were killed by police during the arrests of members of Al Shawkeen, one of the more militant Muslim groups, the indictment said.

It accused the defendants of 12

terrorist attacks including thefts of jewellery shops owned by Coptic Christians. Three people were killed in the robberies. The extremists have targeted the Coptic minority as part of their campaign.

The defendants are also accused of killing two policemen in a metro station and trying to kill other police and passersby.

More than 170 people have died in attacks or shootouts with police during the extremist campaign. President Hosni Mubarak started referring Muslim radicals to military courts last year to speed up trials.

While 22 extremists have been sentenced to death by the military courts, only one execution has been carried out. Opposition parties and human rights advocates have condemned the trials by military court since the defendants can only appeal to Mr. Mubarak.

General Bahaaeddin Ibrahim, an assistant to Interior Minister Hassan Al Alf, said that Gen. Alfie ordered an end to a legal decision

arrests" of Islamic militant suspects as well as collective punishment.

Gen. Alfie has also instructed police to "make use of firearms or force only when it is extremely necessary."

A new department has been set up to verify that the new policy of the ministry is respected and ensure that the interior minister's orders are carried out.

Amnesty criticised "grave human rights violations" in Egypt and said last year saw an "alarming" number of incidents in which members of Islamic military groups were killed, allegedly while attempting to escape arrest.

"Over the past 16 months, 46 policemen and 14 officers were detained on charges of having violated human rights while 36 other officers were punished for minor violations," he said.

Suspects cannot be detained for more than 30 days without a legal decision

Despite handover, U.N. continues to rely on Americans in Somalia

By Paul Alexander
The Associated Press

MOGADISHU — Stung by criticism of its reliance on U.N. military might, the U.N. made sure its big assault against warlord Mohammad Farrah Aideed had a multinational flavour.

The vast majority of the 1,395 ground troops used Thursday came from Italy, Pakistan, Morocco and France, with contributions from Egypt, Kuwait, India, Australia, Tunisia and Sweden.

But much of the strategy was planned by Americans, based on intelligence gathered by Americans and directed by an American command structure.

Virtually all the air support came from the United States,

from the AC-130 aircraft that conducted precision shelling to the Scout, Cobras and Blackhawk helicopters that were called on to take out the worst sniper nests.

Even though the United States handed over control of the military relief operation in Somalia to the United Nations in May, the U.N. remains dependent on the Americans.

That situation is unlikely to change much, even though the U.N. is trying hard to melt into the key logistical and command positions. The Quick Reaction Force that deals with crises is comprised of 1,100 U.S. army soldiers from Fort Drum, New York.

The dependence will be even heavier until more troops arrive. When reinforcements were considered prudent after the June

clash with Somali gunmen in which 24 Pakistani soldiers were killed and 58 wounded, the call went to the four-squadron U.S. Marine amphibious task force that operates in this part of the world.

The 2,200 Marines cut short their exercise in Kuwait and steamed to Somalia. The scream of low-flying Harrier jets Saturday morning announced their arrival.

The U.N. command structure, both on the political and military sides, has a very heavy Yankee flavour. Many are on loan from the Pentagon, the State Department and other U.S. government agencies.

The list includes Jonathan Howe, a retired admiral who serves as the special envoy of

U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Gali and is responsible for most of the big decisions.

The military commander, Lieutenant-General Cevik Bir, is from Turkey, but much of his top staff is American.

Much of the intelligence staff who sort through the misinformation and disinformation from the outside are U.S. military officers.

U.S. Army Special Forces carry out intelligence-gathering and

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

Investment projects to open 1,050 new jobs

AMMAN (Petra) — The Council of Ministers recently approved several investment projects at a total cost of JD47.2 million, according to an announcement made Monday by Minister of Industry and Trade Bassam Al Saket. Dr. Saket said these 15 projects will provide job opportunities to 1,050 job seekers.

Minister to inspect education sector in Maan

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Education and Higher Education Khaled Al Omari Tuesday will meet with educationalists in Maan governorate to discuss issues of concern to them. Dr. Omari will also inspect the Tawjihi examination halls in Maan, Shobak and Aqaba.

Jordan to participate in disaster management meeting

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan will take part in a workshop on Disaster management, organised by the United Nations Development Fund (UNDP) and the Geneva-based U.N. Department for Humanitarian Affairs, according to Minister of Social Development Mohammad Al Sqour. Dr. Sqour said the ministry has received an invitation to participate in the workshop, which will be held in October. He said Jordan has gained an experience in dealing with emergencies, most recently during the Gulf crisis. Dr. Sqour was speaking during a meeting with a delegation from the Regional Centre for Disasters and Reconstruction of the American University of Beirut. He said Jordan is in the process of forming a national task force to form a policy for addressing poverty as well.

University, USAID sign water preservation accord

AMMAN (Petra) — The University of Jordan and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Tuesday signed an agreement, under which the USAID will support a programme for preserving water in the central Jordan Valley. The university's Water Research and Studies Centre will carry out a study on the efficiency of field irrigation systems, diagnosing irrigation problems in the area and assessing the efficiency of the water distribution system.

Algeria, Jordan reach TV agreement

AMMAN (Petra) — Director General of Jordan Radio and Television Cooperation Radi Al Khas and his Algerian counterpart Mustafa Ouhadah Tuesday signed a protocol of cooperation in the information and cultural fields. Under the protocol both countries will exchange biweekly newsletters and monthly programmes, as well as joint cultural and technical programmes. They also agreed to exchange technical expertise and provide training opportunities for employees at both corporations. The protocol also calls for covering major and special events.

Syria, Jordan open transport talks

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordanian-Syrian Transport Committee Tuesday opened its three-day meeting in Amman. The committee will discuss resolutions by the Jordanian-Syrian Higher Committee, review tariffs in both countries, and debate means of organising the transport of passengers between the two countries. The Jordanian side to the meetings will be headed by Secretary General of the Ministry of Transport Awad Al Tal and the Syrian side will be headed by Omar Al Shurbaji, an advisor to the Syrian minister of transport.

Free medical day held in Karak

KARAK (Petra) — Manshiyat Abu Hammour Club Tuesday organised, in cooperation with private and public sector doctors, a free medical day at Al Manshiyat Girls School near Karak. Club Secretary Abdul Hameed Al-Bustanji said the doctors examined 480 patients and offered them free medicine. He said the medicine was donated by several medical institutions in Karak. Mr. Bustanji said the club has reached agreement with several doctors from the public and private sectors to organise a free medical day by the beginning of every month.

CDD puts out 36 fires in past 48 hours

AMMAN (Petra) — The Civil Defence Department (CDD) dealt with 182 cases during the past 48 hours, including 36 fires, 144 first and 2 rescue cases, according to the CDD's Public Relations Department. The CDD in Aqaba extinguished a fire that engulfed a house in the coastal city, according to Maj. Omar Tarawneh, director of Aqaba CDD. Major Tarawneh said the fire was caused by gas leakage from a worn-out gas house. Also in Aqaba the CDD dealt with 17 different accidents which resulted in two deaths and 9 injuries.

Power producers, distributors meet

AMMAN (Petra) — The Information Committee of the Arab Union for Producers and Distributors of Electricity held its first meeting here Tuesday with representatives of Jordan, Yemen, Bahrain, Libya and Algeria attending. Director General of the Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA) Mohammad Al-Saqur addressed the meeting, stressing the need for establishing a data bank and for producing special booklets about electricity to help develop this important sector. He called on participants to utilise the computers and telecommunication equipment available to Arab electric authorities and to exchange information and technical consultations among these institutions. He also reiterated the importance of studies and scientific research and pledged the JEA's full support for the Amman-based union to enable it to further develop the electricity sector in the Arab World.

Environment seminar to begin Saturday

AMMAN (Petra) — A seminar on the environment will be organised Saturday by the University of Jordan's Water and Environmental Studies Centre in cooperation with the Washington State University. Centre Director Mohammad Shatnawi said the five-day seminar will discuss the effects of dams, reservoirs and irrigation projects on the environment, the effects of the use of recycled waste water on agricultural produce and human beings, environmental problems resulting from industrial development projects and the effects of solid waste on the environment.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- Exhibition of watercolours, entitled "Landscapes of Jordan," by Prof. Elmar Dittmann at the Phoenix Art Gallery, Gardens Street.
- Exhibition of paintings by artists Nawal Abdullah Kattan and Dr. Tabbari at the French Cultural Centre.
- Paintings by Salem Al Dabbagh, Himat Ali and Karim Rassan at the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation Gallery (10 a.m.-5 p.m.)
- Art exhibition by 26 Jordanian artists at Eshebeia Art Gallery, 6th Circle, Amra Shopping Centre.
- Photo exhibition entitled "Childhood" at the Royal Cultural Centre.

FILM

- Feature film entitled "Silas Marner" at 7 p.m. at the British Council (90 minutes).



HUMAN RESOURCES LECTURE: His Royal Highness Prince Faisal Ben Al Hussein Tuesday attends a lecture by an international expert on industrial affairs and human resources, held at the Jordan Electricity Authority.

Veteran journalist reviews profession

By Tareq Ayyoub
Special to the Jordan Times

IRBID — Journalists should fight for their freedom and should not compromise the ethics and codes of their profession, said Tareq Masa'weh, editor-in-chief of Al-Otoq weekly magazine, in a lecture at the Mass Communication and Journalism Department of Yarmouk University Tuesday.

Mr. Masa'weh who was reviewing his long experience as a journalist during the past 30 years, said "the press in our country has developed a great deal in shape, but its substance has seized to develop."

Mr. Masa'weh, who was addressing students and professors at the department added "our press still depends largely on the foreign news agencies; the main stories of these newspapers are merely government propaganda and there are few stories on the people in our country." Mr. Masa'weh, who worked

Asked why he kept on criticising the U.S. and neglecting domestic affairs that concern ordinary people in his daily column at Al Rai, he said: "The U.S. is the great danger to the Arab and Muslim worlds and we should use the media as a channel for motivation to tell our people about this evil."

Mr. Masa'weh said the Arab renaissance was at hand and once the Arabs regained their strength they would defy the "American rambo."

Regarding the Middle East peace process, he said Israel was the main obstacle to this process and only the U.S. could convince Israel to withdraw from the occupied territories.

He concluded his lecture by saying "American media has planted in the minds of all Americans the hatred and hostility towards Arabs; this media is responsible for the misunderstanding of the legitimate Arab demands."

Ancient pavement found

AMMAN (Petra) — Construction workers stumbled upon part of an ancient pavement adjoining a colonnaded street in downtown Amman near the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ), according to an announcement by the Department of Antiquities Tuesday.

Department sources said that the 30 metre stretch of pavement dates back to the first century A.D.

Department Director Safwan Tell said the pavement stones will be removed and later exhibited at Al Qalaa (citadel) Museum.

He said the stretch originally formed part of the one running along the colonnaded street of Philadelphia (ancient Amman) from the present location of the Central Bank to the site of the Husseini Mosque downtown.

Ministry plans expansion of National Aid Fund

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Social Development plans to expand the National Aid Fund (NAF) projects to cover 30,000 families in 1993 according to Minister of Social Development Mohammad Al Sqour.

The ministry's budget has been increased from JD 11 to JD 17 million, thus enabling the ministry to expand its services to the poor and disabled, and to those requiring special education, and to address the unemployment problem among graduates of the Social Service College, Dr. Sqour said.

Speaking at a meeting in Hamdan Community Development Centre, Dr. Sqour stressed the importance of public participation in achieving self-reliance and advancing the development process.

Dr. Sqour pointed out that the ministry seeks to meet the needs

of poor and underprivileged people.

He stressed the role community development centres can play in meeting their needs and improving their social conditions.

The Hamdan Community Development Centre provides basic services to citizens in cooperation with the governmental and non-governmental organisations.

King: Jordan seeks comprehensive peace

(Continued from page 1)

to vote or to run in the coming elections.

On the peace process, King Hussein said: "We decided to go to Madrid at a national meeting in Jordan, when all representative bodies were invited to discuss the subject of peace, and it is with that support that we went to Madrid and have been moving ever since. I am hopeful, I am optimistic and I am determined that we do everything we can to encourage progress towards a comprehensive settlement that gives Palestinians their legitimate rights on their soil, that gives parties on either side of the divide their security needs and their confidence in the future and that gives all those indirectly involved and further on beyond a chance to experience life as has never been the case so far and for the children of Abraham to come together and start as they should a new life with peace and dignity, the kind of life that they can live with and protect in the times ahead ... based on justice and the conviction that they have resolved their problem, the root cause of instability in the Middle East and may be beyond."

"We hope that the United States will be able to play an active role in the times ahead, as a partner and as the major power in our world."

On Jordan's relations with Arab countries King Hussein said: "As far as Arab states are concerned, we wish them all the best. We are proud to belong to this nation and have always sought within our Arab family the possible relations based on mutual respect, non-interference in the affairs of each other and for

we can see the kind of cooperation within our region for which we strove, be it the people who returned from the Gulf for stability and progress, or be it Jordan in terms of history and policies at least we see something similar to what happened in Europe, where, regardless of the systems of government and regardless of the size of countries or nations, a great deal has been achieved."

Arah hopes and aspirations will always be very close to us and a part of our need for a better future, for our people everywhere."

JORDAN TIMES
TEL. 667171

REQUIRED FOR IMMEDIATE EMPLOYMENT

A major local contracting company is in need to employ qualified persons to work in Jordan as follows:

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3. One electrician for heavy equipment.

4. One plant electrician, for asphalt mixing plants.

5. One electrician for asphalt pavers.

6. Two grader operators.

Applicants must have experience not less than eight years with major companies in the same field.

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Arab livestock breeders examine ways to achieve food security

AMMAN (J.T.) — Despite the Arab World's vast agricultural potential and enormous resources, its countries annually import \$23 billion worth of food while nearly a million Arab children die annually from malnutrition, said Falah Jaber, secretary general of the Arab Union for Food Industries.

Speaking Tuesday at the opening session of a pan-Arab seminar on cattle breeding and promoting livestock wealth, Dr. Jaber pointed to millions of hectares of cultivable land and resources such as oil, phosphate, potash and natural gas.

At the meeting, Jordan called for immediate measures to integrate the Arab countries in the field of food processing as a means of ensuring food security.

Addressing the session, Agriculture Minister Marwan Kamal

performed of the Jordanian cattle breeders among other topics.

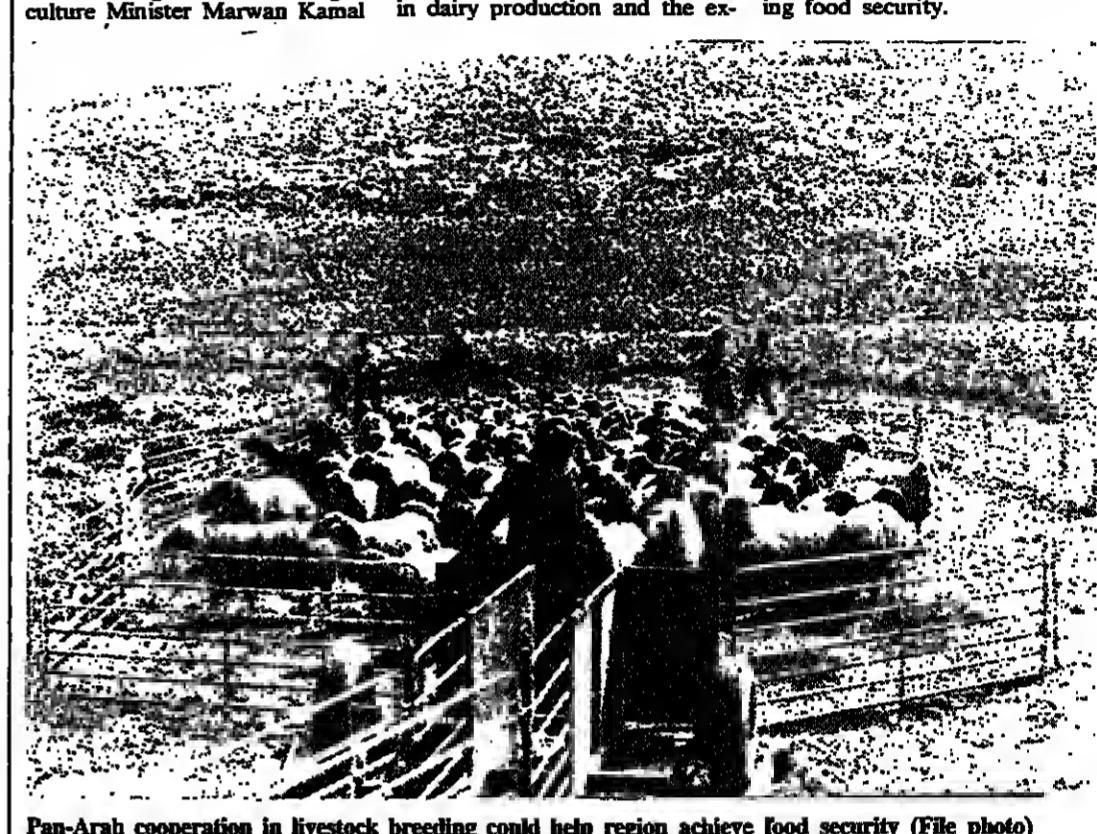
JCO Director General Jamal Bedour reviewed the challenge facing the Arab World and ooted food security for the growing population could be listed at the top.

The Arab population, he said, requires 268,000 tonnes of food supplies on a daily basis, but current Arab food production can barely cover 75 per cent of the needs.

Noting that pasture lands cover only 13.8 per cent of the total area of the Arab World, Dr. Bedour said that this area is insufficient to produce red meat requirements.

Dr. Bedour said cooperative societies in the Arab World could contribute more towards achieving food security.

The nine participating Arab states will review working papers on modern methods of cattle breeding, diseases affecting animals of the Arab World, the dairy industry, the role of cooperatives in dairy production and the ex-



Pan-Arab cooperation in livestock breeding could help region achieve food security (File photo)

'Pepsi pool' dredging begins

New recreation attraction to follow

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Following years of reported drowning and bodies being thrown in the so-called Pepsi pool located between Amman and Russeifa, dredging of the foul-smelling, insect infested, stagnant accumulation is reported to have begun.

Amman municipality said it has just embarked on a two-stage project to transform the dangerous catch-all into a recreational attraction.

— Mayor Mohammad Al Bashir

said work has already started on draining the contaminated water, which is being dumped over a vast area of land away from the pool.

Then, the various impurities and rubbish will be removed, said the mayor and pure water will be pumped into the basin and trees planted along its edges.

Local residents had reported that several children had drowned in the pond and cases of murder victims being dumped in the water were also reported, according to municipality sources.



Dredging of the dangerous and foul-smelling water accumulation near the Pepsi Cola factory between Amman and Russeifa has begun, with plans to

CANADA DAY

Fête du Canada

In celebration of Canada Day, all Canadian citizens in Jordan are invited to attend a picnic which will be held on Thursday, July 1st, from 5 to 8 p.m. in the Yajuz area.

Activities will include tree planting ceremony, barbecue, live music and door prizes.

Canadians interested in attending should bring proof of citizenship to the embassy to obtain free entrance ticket, map and information sheet. The embassy will not provide transportation.

En l'honneur de la Fête du Canada, les canadiennes et les canadiens résidant en Jordanie sont cordialement invité(e)s à un pique-nique qui aura lieu jeudi le premier juillet à Yajuz. Nous organiserons pour cette occasion, une cérémonie de plantation d'arbres, un barbecue, des musiciens et des prix d'entrée.

Les canadiennes et canadiens désirant venir sont priées de se présenter à l'ambassade avec preuve de citoyenneté pour obtenir un carton d'entrée, un plan et un feuillet de renseignements. Le transport jusqu'au site n'est pas fourni.

Jordan Times

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Bankruptcy of values

UNLESS THE world community contributes men and money to protect U.N.-designated "safe areas" for Muslims in beleaguered Bosnia-Herzegovina, it might as well tear up Security Council resolutions and arm Muslim forces, French President Francois Mitterrand told European Community (EC) leaders Tuesday before they agreed to heed U.N. demands for more troops to halt Serb aggressions. Since additional EC forces would do little to end the Serb onslaught on the outgunned Muslims, arming the Bosnian Muslims would at least give them a chance to defend themselves.

After a lengthy debate during a two-day summit, the EC leaders, in a bid to demonstrate that they are not abandoning the Muslims, agreed to commit the new troops. But abandoning Muslims is precisely what Europe and indeed the world have been guilty of since the conflict erupted after the collapse of former Yugoslavia.

The many peace attempts that crumbled at Serb intransigence and world inaction speak of one reality: Nothing short of military action would stop Serb attacks and their heinous Nazi-style crimes against a people whom the world has deserted.

But the world, especially Europe, is unwilling to be dragged into a conflict that, as it festers, has proven the bankruptcy of European political and moral values. One alternative remains: allow the Bosnian Muslims access to arms with which they can defend themselves. If they lose, the world will only be blamed for failing to silence the guns and curbing a conflict in which power once again conquered over justice and human values. Still the world community continues to carry the blame, and the shame, for not helping them or letting them help themselves.

When former U.S. President George Bush proclaimed a new world order at the end of the Gulf war, he boasted that few of us here took for more than empty rhetoric aimed at justifying a war fought for Western interests — nothing more nothing less. We were right. The world cannot let aggression pay, said the former U.S. commander and chief. But that world too often has been guilty of just that. Bosnia, regrettably, is another case in point.

In Bosnia, aggression is paying, and handsomely so. The Bosnian Muslims Wednesday would be forced to negotiate a settlement drafted by the aggressors. They will have to negotiate the division of their country according to terms dictated by the Serbs and the Croats. What better reward could the aggressors hope to reap?

While aggression is paying, advocates of the new world order sit deafeningly silent.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL DUSTOUR daily Tuesday said that the Arabs are not expecting positive steps to be achieved from the 10th round of Arab-Israeli negotiations which are resuming this week. After nine fruitless sessions, the two sides find themselves back to square one, not achieving any progress towards a settlement, said the paper. Even the Israeli negotiators have recently expressed disappointment over the lack of progress at the talks with the Arab side although they realise that it is the Israeli government which is placing obstacles in the path of a settlement, the paper said. In view of this situation, said the paper, the 10th round is bound to end in total deadlock, causing more disappointments for the two sides and dealing a blow to the credibility of the co-sponsors. It is regrettable to see the United States, which had pledged to act as a full partner at the negotiations, doing nothing to give impetus to the peace talks or pressuring the Israelis to end their intransigent stand, continued the daily. It is indeed the last chance for the U.S. administration to act constructively and push the process forward so that the two parties can advance towards peace, urged the paper. We call on the United States, which is hosting the talks, to act as a driving force and a full partner in the peace process so that the Middle East region can taste peace, the paper said.

AHMAD ARAFAT, a guest columnist in Al Ra'i, said that the Palestinians who continue to confront the Zionist onslaught and occupation, also are pressured and blackmailed by the Arab states. After losing their means of living in the Gulf following the Gulf war, the Palestinians find themselves with no income and suffering from repression and occupation, said the writer. Indeed, Israel and the United States have sought to corner the Palestinians in such a manner that they can give in to Israel's pressure and accept compromise solutions or sell out their national rights, he said. Under the continued pressure, starvation and siege, the Palestinians could succumb to the desires of the aggressors, said the writer. Those Arabs who are helping to subdue the patriotic feelings of the Palestinians and stifle their resistance realise that women and children's lives are at stake here, and should the Palestinian people give in to the desires of the aggressors, the Palestinian negotiators in Washington could lose their most important cards in their dealings with the Israeli side, continued the writer. He said that by depriving the PLO and its cultural health and information institutions of Arab financial assistance with which it can pursue its efforts world wide, the Palestinians are bound to give in to the pressure and could accept any solution that would be detrimental to Arab national interests.

Human rights

The West is challenged by Asia

By Alan Riding

VIENNA — It is tempting to reduce the global human rights debate today to a clash of good guys against bad guys, of western democracies against Asian dictators, of countries defending the principle of universal human rights against Third World attempts to water down the concept with economic, cultural and religious arguments.

It is all the more tempting because the attack on traditional "western" human rights is being led by the likes of China, Syria and Iran, countries not exactly renowned for their love of democracy. Further, with barely a blush, the Asian bloc seems to have assumed the Soviet bloc's old role of opposing international "meddling" on human rights.

Yet halfway through the World Conference on Human Rights, the first such gathering in 25 years, it is apparent that the debate is becoming more complicated: not only do some of the Third World's economic arguments have validity, but lobbies in the West are now claiming special rights for, say, women, children, indigenous peoples, migrant workers and the bandicoot.

As a result, the notions enshrined in the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights — the right to life and security, along with a host of "negatives," such as the rights not to be tortured, raped, imprisoned without due cause or "disappeared" — are in danger of becoming lost in a broader discussion about democracy, development, culture and religio.

Led by the United States, western nations — now backed by Moscow and its former satellites — say they prefer to end the Vienna conference without agreement Friday if the alternative is a final document that threatens the principle of universal human rights. They are also determined to give the United Nations greater power to monitor and denounce human rights abuses.

In this, they are being strongly supported by delegates from over 1,000 non-governmental organisations, including many from Asia, who dismiss the Third World's "relativist" arguments as nothing more than excuses for authoritarian regimes.

The meeting last week verged at times on the surreal. On the first floor, human rights groups busily denounced everything from attacks on Guatemalan Indians to trafficking in Thai women. One floor above, the diplomats could discuss only general principles.

"By positioning itself as judge of the world's behaviour, the West is also vulnerable to charges of upholding double standards. Today's worst atrocities are taking place in Bosnia, and the West has done little to stop them. Germany's Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel also had to recite a public mea culpa last week about the 'xenophobic outrages' in his own country."

Yet, by positioning itself as judge of the world's behaviour, the West is also vulnerable to charges of upholding double standards. Today's worst atrocities are taking place in Bosnia, and the West has done little to stop them. Germany's Foreign Minister, Klaus Kinkel, also had to recite a public mea culpa last week about the "xenophobic outrages" in his own country.

In addition, it is not forgotten here that the West was once happy to back anti-communist dictatorships and now protects despotic Arab monarchies out of fear of Islamic fundamentalism.

Yet perhaps the greatest weakness in the West's case is that it has traditionally emphasised political over economic rights.

"It's hard for people who have never faced hunger or illiteracy to understand how crucial they are to a majority of mankind," Reed Brody of the International Human Rights Law Group said. "Ask an American about human rights and he'll say: freedom of speech. Ask an African woman about human rights and she'll say: the right to feed her children."

Economic Forum

Protection: More of a barrier than a thrust if unwisely used

By Dr. Abdalla Malki

Protection refers to the various forms of barriers installed in the face of imports with the purpose of aiding domestic products. These products comprise all sorts of goods and services. Somebody construed, somehow, this term to mean only industrial products. A set of faulty policy prescriptions had been bred by this misconception and widely circulated.

The zealots of free markets and ideologies of international trade maintain that domestic industrial products which enjoy protection laze behind the walls of protection and thus lose incentives to improve the quality of their products or to cut their production costs; therefore, protection tends to court inefficient enterprises and to bring up an ailing economy.

There is no need to dispute this argument. Improving the quality of manufactured goods and cutting their production costs require the application of technologies, production techniques, management methods and quality control systems which may be beyond the reach of industrial projects in developing countries. But this is not applicable to other products nor is it true at all times.

What we have mainly in mind here is agricultural products. The agricultural sector in all developing countries must be treated as a very special case. Jordan produces vegetables, fruits and poultry and ignores other field crops, especially grains. Eggs, chickens, cheese, milk, onions, chickpeas, lentils, broadbeans, peaches, grapes and apples, to name a few products produced by Jordan, are in no way inferior to those produced by any other countries in terms of quality. On the contrary, they outperform the products of developed countries on this count. And thanks to low wages, they even have an edge in prices.

Very obviously, the argument against protection based on industrial products crumbles in the case of agricultural products. Nevertheless, the pundits of free international trade use it to

ridicule protection for agriculture. Now, the advanced countries themselves shrug off any theoretical niceties and offer very generous and permanent protection to their agriculture. It is interesting to notice that opponents of protection in developing countries are more fanatic than their colleagues in advanced ones.

The same argument of protection for agriculture applies to certain services. To levy a heavy departure tax on citizens going for holidays abroad or to ration the numbers of travellers abroad offers protection for domestic tourism. However, the case of industrial protection is deliberately used to disrupt protectionism at large.

And even in the case of industry, the argument is used in an utterly indiscriminate way. Not all domestic industries abuse protection and others may make very good use of it. Once upon a time Jordan had a very successful cigarette industry which is being annihilated by foreign competition. The theoreticians seem to fail to realise that the improvement of quality and costs is not the only outcome of open markets; another practical alternative is the persisting of commercially viable and/or nationally profitable domestic enterprises. If given, protection need not be for all industrial products nor should it be permanent. The competition factor can be provided, partially at least, through having a multiplicity of domestic projects.

A sound protection policy promotes import substitution badly needed to corroborate export policies. If such a substitution does not materialise in the case of manufacturing goods, it will be a guaranteed result, and success, in agriculture. Developing countries are advantaged, or least disadvantaged, in producing agricultural goods. In the case of Jordan, agriculture provides, additionally, a strategic long-term solution to hitherto chronic unemployment.

M. KAHLIL



Direct voting brings U.S.-style mud-slinging to Italy

By Stephen Addison
Reuter

ROME — Italy's next general election is likely to be one of the dirtiest in the country's history if weekend local polls are any guide, political commentators said Monday.

New direct voting rules and the rise of the rabble-rousing Northern League turned the city hall campaigns into U.S.-style slugfests where no blow was too low.

"It was surprising to see how personal it all became," said one senior diplomat. "There's bound to be much tawdry with brushes in the next campaign."

Sunday's voting was a run-off between the leading two candidates for mayor in 145 cities and towns including Milan and Turin in the north and Catania in Sicily.

The first round earlier this month had generally eliminated the scandal-tainted Christian Democrats and Socialists, leaving local personalities backed by reformist parties and popular alliances to go head-to-head in the decider.

It had confirmed the devastating effects of the country's 17-month corruption scandal on the traditional parties and the rise of both the league and the ex-communist Democratic Party of the Left (PDS).

But political analysts said the local nature of the second-round debate made it an unreliable snapshot of the national picture.

"It was mostly about sweeping the streets and keeping the parks clean," said another diplomat, "but it certainly generated a lot of heat."

Most of the mud was slung by league leader Umberto Bossi, whose candidate Marco Formenini, a 63-year-old former European Community bureaucrat, captured 57.1 per cent of the vote in Milan to defeat leftist rival Nando Dalla Chiesa.

Indeed, in a sense, the conference can already claim success. If Asian countries are attacking universal human rights, it is because they are under closer scrutiny. And if non-governmental organisations are stronger, it is because peoples' awareness of their "right" to human rights is growing. "This movement is more important than the conference," one American official said — The New York Times.

obviously not part of his culture he uses the intimidation and aggression of the fascists."

Insults flew, too, in Catania, the east Sicilian city under Mount Etna where popular former Mayor Enzo Bianco was up against Claudio Fava, whose magazine editor father was also murdered by the Mafia, in 1980.

The city hall polls were the first in which the electorate had been

able to see the candidates. Previously they had merely voted for party lists and the mayors would then be chosen by politicians — with much horse trading in smoke-filled rooms.

The same principle will be enshrined in national parliamentary elections which analysts expect by spring 1994.

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By Barbara Al Baroudi

Special to the Jordan Times

JAMMAN — We have all been told that we should wash and peel raw vegetables before eating them. We usually think of that in relation to stomach troubles. Another very good reason to take this precaution seriously is pesticide residues. The highest residual pesticide levels in Jordan are found in vegetables grown in plastic greenhouses in the Jordan Valley. Tests have shown that cucumbers, eggplant, potatoes, hot peppers, squash, tomatoes and mint may have relatively high levels. This does not mean that one should stop eating vegetables. The first rule is to wash the vegetables under water, scrubbing them well. This alone can cut the residual level by 90 percent, and cooking lowers it even further. Varying the diet by eating many different kinds of food, and not overeating any particular one, can also help. Fruit does not seem to have high residual pesticide residues.

Pesticide is a general term that covers insecticides, fungicides, bactericides and herbicides. Each name indicates the targeted pest or problem. Pesticide use is a general concern because pesticides are hazardous to the environment, human beings and animals. They can be defined as poisons of low, medium and high toxicity formulated to kill target pests.

The use of pesticides in the last 50 years has helped increase the food supply, obviously an important advantage. The disadvantages are often the result of the natural human reaction: "If a little is good, more is better."

Chemical companies that produce pesticides have done a great deal of research into their use and have learned over the years the optimum doses for best results and least damage to people, animals and the environment. Most commonly used pesticides are of three types. The chlorinated hydrocarbons (DDT derivatives, etc.) are the most toxic and stay in the environment for 20 to 30 years. The organophosphate group disappears more quickly. The carbamates are the least toxic. Companies that manufacture pesticides have not always acted responsibly. As the dangers of DDT derivatives became known, Europe and North America ban-

ned them, and Jordan decided to stop using them, but most of the rest of the world was not aware of the problem. Since the companies still had large quantities of unsold, banned products in stock, it is not surprising that much of that supply found its way to countries where they were not banned.

Pesticides can cause either acute or chronic toxicity in man. Acute toxicity has an immediate effect. Chronic toxicity is very dangerous also because it is a slow build-up that often has no warning signs until some critical level is reached. People can be affected in the following ways:

1) By direct contact. The worker who applies the pesticide is exposed by inhaling, ingesting or touching it. The symptoms appear as poisoning. One gramme of some of the highly toxic pesticides can kill a person, whereas it takes 20 or 30 grammes of those of moderate or low toxicity.

2) Through the food chain. Environmental contamination finds its way into the food chain and can reach high levels through bio-accumulation. People are exposed through the meat (herbivores and carnivores), fish (de-

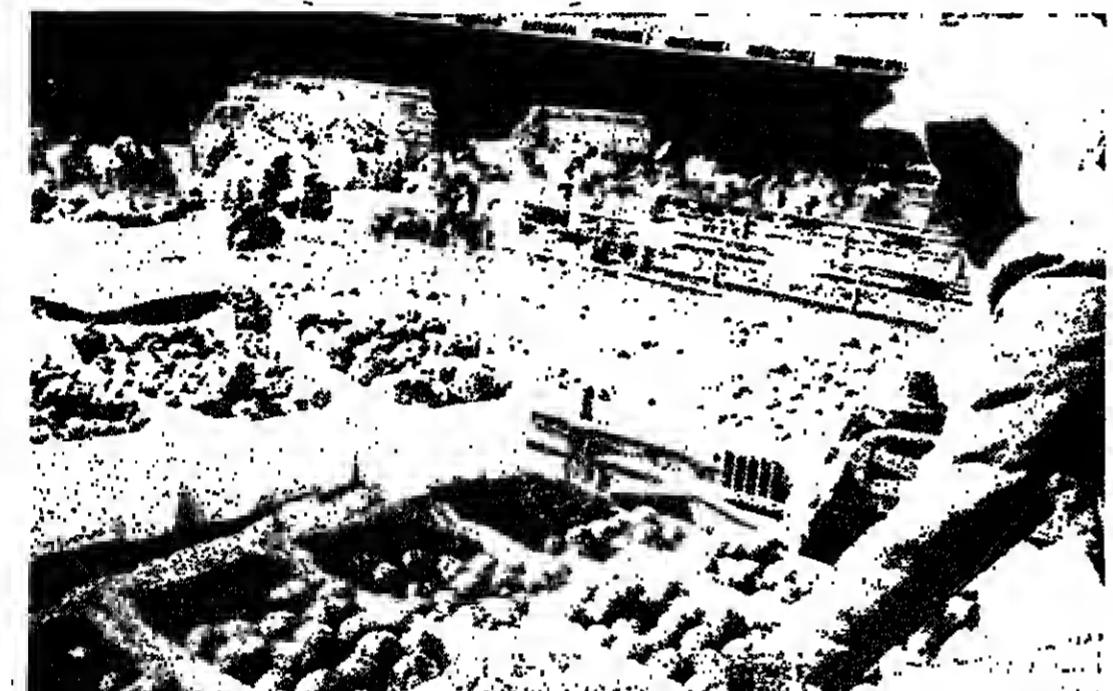
pending on water solubility) and plants (mostly vegetables) that they eat.

The concern about "permissible levels" for pesticide residues in food and water has resulted in considerable international research. Jordan has done some research and a more comprehensive study is in progress.

How pesticide use has affected ground and surface water as well as soil and food stuffs are issues that will be tackled by the study. Laws concentrating on agricultural products began to be passed in 1985. A system of fines for agricultural offenses was established in 1973, and the largest fine is JD 100 (not much of a deterrent). In Germany, the fines are higher and planting is forbidden for two years after a conviction. In the U.S., on-the-spot analysis of produce is undertaken, and California alone has 2,000 trained people to implement this policy whereas Jordan has very few trained people working on the problem.

What Jordan needs now is an agricultural extension service to pass on research results to the farmers and to help them understand the importance of the proper use of pesticides. In a study using a questionnaire, more than 60 per cent of the farmers answered that they did not respect the waiting period between applying pesticides and harvesting crops.

If consumers become aware of pesticide residue levels in produce and insist that they want this problem solved, it is the beginning of a solution. Farmers have to know that there is an economic as well as a health advantage to the proper use of pesticides, and both the local and the export markets have to insist on "clean" fruit and vegetables.



Washing and peeling could remove a large percentage of pesticides used, not always wisely, by farmers wishing to obtain a higher yield (File photo)

Madrid bombs show Basque ETA can strike although hurt

By Robert Hart

Reuter

MADRID — Two car bombs that exploded in Madrid on Monday showed that the Basque separatist ETA guerrillas can still strike with deadly effect despite a string of political and military setbacks, Spanish politicians said.

"Unfortunately ETA is not yet entirely finished," said Baltasar Garzon, Spain's most famous crime-fighting judge now turned Socialist parliamentarian.

The two bombs, which killed seven people, including five soldiers, and injured at least a dozen more, went off in the centre of the Spanish capital nine hours apart and at the height of the morning rush hour.

The ETA (Basque homeland and freedom) has not claimed responsibility for the bombs, but suspicions immediately fell on the group, which has been waging a violent campaign for an independent Basque state for the past 25 years, killing more than 750 people and injuring some 3,000.

"The important and unfortunate thing for us is that the ETA infrastructure in Madrid is still intact," Mr. Garzon told a radio interviewer.

The car bomb has been one of their favourite and most deadly weapons in attacks generally aimed at Spain's security forces but which have frequently also caused civilian deaths.

Car bombs in Madrid have killed 37 people and injured 134 since 1985. Four car bombs in the capital last year killed seven police and military and injured another 22 people.

Spanish political and security officials insist that ETA is politically defeated, with support draining away even in the Basque country, where a peace movement brings thousands onto the streets to protest every act of violence.

But they admit that, even with only a handful of guerrillas still active, the ETA can still make its deadly presence felt.

"As long as there are a few committed terrorists left, they can plant a bomb or carry out a shooting. The fish has been hooked and is dying but the last latches of its tail are do-

tremendous damage," a Basque politician told Reuters recently.

Security officials have several times this year reported evidence of ETA plans to stage a publicity-grabbing attack in Madrid.

"We're not entirely surprised at the attacks," an Interior Ministry spokesman said after Monday's blasts. "We knew there were several terrorists active in Madrid. What we didn't know was where or when they would strike."

Until Monday's attacks, ETA's activities in 1993 had been limited to four murders in the Basque city of San Sebastian. The guerrillas shot dead one businessman, a prison officer, a civil guardsman and an alleged drugs trafficker in separate attacks.

The guerrillas, whose bloodiest year was 1980, when 124 people died, suffered their biggest setback at the hands of security forces when their three top military commanders were arrested in a hideout in southern France in March, 1992.

Since then Spanish and French

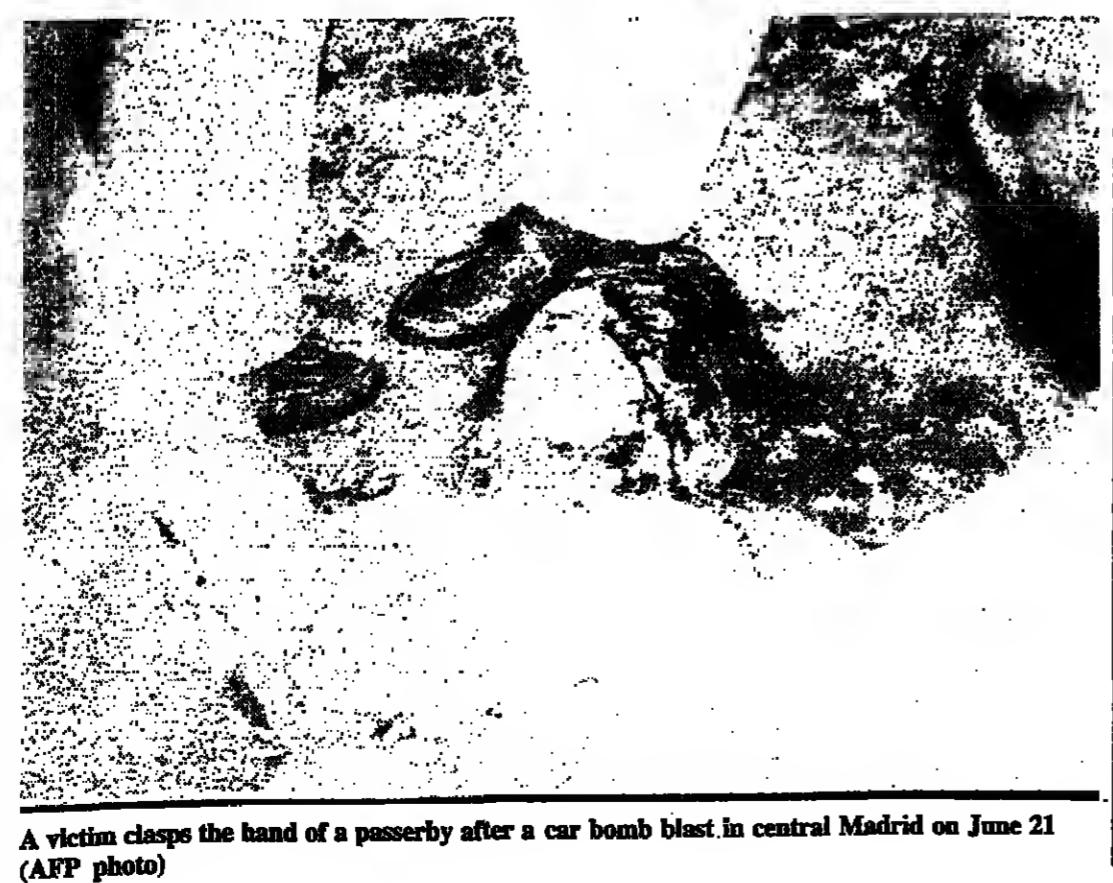
police have seized dozens more guerrillas and collaborators on both sides of the border and wiped out ETA "commandos" in the Basque country and in the Barcelona area.

In interviews with Reuters last month members of radical and moderate Basque nationalist parties said they were convinced ETA was looking for a face-saving political formula to enable them to end the violence.

But a statement by the moderate Basque Nationalist Party (PNV) linked the bombs to a poor showing by the radical Henri Batasuna Party, which supports ETA, in June 6 general elections.

"ETA has 'celebrated' its electoral failure with a macabre attack. We have always said ETA can carry out attacks like today's... but that does not alter our conviction that they are in an irreversible, terminal condition," the statement said.

Mr. Batasuna's party lost two of its four parliamentary seats while Socialist Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez has approached the PNV and Catalan nationalists to join a coalition.



A victim clasps the hand of a passerby after a car bomb blast in central Madrid on June 21 (AFP photo)

Russia's nuclear elite ring alarm bells as crisis deepens

By Mark Trevelyan

Reuter

MOSCOW — Smarting from the loss of their elite cold war status, Russia's nuclear scientists are raising their voices in a chorus of protest with worrying implications for Moscow and the West.

Scientists at a top nuclear weapons centre, complaining of scarce food and medicines and two-month delays in getting paid, warned Russia's leaders this month of the risk of a Chernobyl-type disaster.

The experts at Arzamas-16, where Andrei Sakharov and others developed the Soviet atom bomb, said accidents on a par with the world's worst nuclear catastrophe could not be ruled out if standards kept on sliding.

A spokesman for the Atomic Energy Ministry, which runs Russia's network of 10 closed nuclear cities, said the protest came as no surprise.

"They're saying this not in order to blackmail us, but to prevent it from happening," spokesman Sergei Yermakov said in a telephone interview.

"The Finance Ministry isn't paying the wages to our ministry and we have no money to pay state employees for June... it's not our scientists' fault and it's not our ministry's fault — it's not receiving any money."

The Arzamas scientists, in an open letter to parliament, the government and President Boris Yeltsin, outlined nightmare scenarios that have haunted the West since the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991.

Chief among these are the fear that nuclear experts could sell their secrets to radical anti-western states such as Libya or Iraq, or that Russia's own weapons may be prone to accidents.

"Degrading" conditions, the scientists said, encouraged employees to seek work elsewhere. This could lead to nuclear specialists leaving Russia and taking their expertise with them.

The government could not afford to take short cuts on nuclear research and safety because a serious accident involving just one weapon could cost \$500 million or more to clean up.

Built on the site of a former monastery, surrounded by thick forest and ringed by barbed wire,

Arzamas was the key link in a chain of secret nuclear cities that did not appear on any map.

A top scientist at another secret facility, Chelyabinsk-70, recalled in an interview with Reuters the pressures he and his colleagues had faced in the 1960s and 1970s to match the Americans in developing ever more deadly and accurate weaponry.

"We were so committed to our work, the need to defend the motherland and create a nuclear shield so as not to be defenceless... we worked not out of fear but out of conscience and the need to create a counterbalance," he said.

"Of course we believed we would definitely not be the first to start a war, we believed it was ruled out for defence. Now we think the fact that on Third

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Lloyd's of London unveils biggest loss in 306 years

LONDON (R) — Lloyd's of London unveiled a record £2.92 billion (\$4.33 billion) loss Tuesday, threatening the survival of the 306-year-old insurance market and the future of many of its more than 30,000 members.

The result for 1990 was slightly worse than predicted in April by Lloyd's Chairman David Rowland and followed losses of £2.06 billion (\$3.05 billion) in 1989 and £510 million (\$756 million) in 1988.

Mr. Rowland said of the grim result for the world's oldest and largest insurance market: "It represents in every way the low point of Lloyd's history."

Lloyd's which always reports three years in arrears to clear outstanding claims, announced its latest loss at the annual meeting of members. The deficit stems from a spate of natural and industrial disasters in the late 1980s, including hurricane Hugo and the Exxon Valdez oil spill, combined with claims from severe European storms in 1990.

Losses in 1990 were made worse by many of the Lloyd's syndicates have insufficient reinsurance protection against high-risk catastrophe business in which

the market specialised in the late 1980s.

Mr. Rowland has announced measures to try to save Lloyd's from collapse through a business plan launched in April. The plan envisages the introduction of corporate capital into the market next year and spells the end of Lloyd's tradition of unlimited liability. Mr. Rowland has warned that Lloyd's tradition of unlimited liability. Mr. Rowland has warned that Lloyd's might have no future unless investors and the market unite behind his blueprint.

The average loss for the 27,770 Lloyd's members known as "names" trading in 1990 exceeded £100,000 pounds (\$148,200) each.

Lloyd's has a total of 32,000 names, a third of whom have resigned from active underwriting but remain liable for losses on syndicates whose accounts remain "open." Among the names are more than 40 members of parliament of the ruling Conservative party, including several cabinet ministers, and many well-known public figures.

Some leading members of Lloyd's say the run of unpre-

dicted losses could spell financial ruin for many and jeopardise Lloyd's itself.

One angry member at Tuesday's annual meeting warned that external names — those who invest their personal wealth in the market — would not rule out forcing the closure of Lloyd's if it was in their best interest.

"It is we, the 80 per cent of external names, who will decide the future of the society, if closure is to our advantage, and it may well be do, then rest assured we will close it," said Lloyd's member Alan Price.

Mr. Price said the reason for the huge losses was that "the underwriters of the 300 or so syndicates concerned accepted business at rates that were far too low to produce any hope of profits."

"The mammoth losers will increase in numbers today," said Marie-Louise Burrows, chairman of one of the biggest lossmaking groups.

Analysts said the latest result means the London-based insurance market has racked up a deficit for the four years to 1991 in excess of £6 billion (\$9 billion).

Some leading members of

Dollar rise seen boosting upstream oil industry

AMSTERDAM (R) — A resurgent dollar should help pump profits into the oil industry outside the United States, but OPEC countries will not be the biggest gainers, oil analysts said Monday.

The dollar is soaring against major currencies as the U.S. economy emerges from recession while Germany and Japan struggle with economic and political woes, and analysts say it looks set to gain a further 10 to 15 per cent over the next 18 months.

As a result, non-dollar-based oil producers can expect windfall gains as dollar-denominated oil income grows.

"The main gainers will be net

oil producers with non-dollar economies," said Mike Wilcox of consultants Wod Mackenzie.

"But the main OPEC (Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries) states have dollarised economies and for them some of the effect of more valuable dollar revenues will be cancelled out by their own higher currencies," Mr. Wilcox said.

The dollar hit a 20-month high of 1.6953 marks Monday. Analysts say the U.S. currency could climb to two marks by the end of 1994 and could make big gains against other European currencies. It is also seen rebounding against the yen.

This would be good news for

oil producers who have suffered a steady decline in their income over the past few years due to inflation and the weak dollar.

Oil prices are now at about the same nominal level as they were three years ago shortly before the Gulf War. But they are worth a lot less in real terms.

"Oil prices are now about where they were in July 1990 but they will only buy about 84 per cent of the goods they would have bought then," said oil analyst Geoff Pyne of securities house UBS Limited in London.

A rise in the dollar could reverse this. And, if it does, the really big winners would be Britain, Norway and Russia — all of

which need oil revenue to offset the current recession.

"It's very good news for Russia," said Mr. Wilcox.

But analysts said the gains would be more muted for countries within the dollar's orbit such as the members of the OPEC.

"Sixty or 70 per cent of imports into most OPEC countries are in dollar-denominated currencies," said Mr. Pyne. He said most OPEC states could expect to gain about half as much as non-dollar economies like Britain.

"A 10 to 15 per cent increase in the dollar could mean a five to 10 per cent increase in OPEC's purchasing power," Mr. Pyne said.

The dollar's rise also offers a bonus to exploration and production-biased oil firms, particularly those outside the U.S.

"Upstream-orientated oil companies that report their results in non-dollar terms will benefit most," said European oil firm

analyst Elizabeth Wade of Barlays de Zoete Wedd in London.

She said the big gainers would include Norwegian firms Norsk Hydro A/S and SAGA Petroleum A/S, British Petroleum Co. PLC, Enterprise Oil PLC, and France's STE National Elf Aquitaine.

Analysts said the overall impact of a high dollar on the oil industry would tend to be positive because, while the gain for producers would be large, the loss for consumers could be small.

Crude oil prices represent a relatively small proportion of retail oil prices in most developed nations. Tax, processing and transport costs make up most of the price of petrol at the pump.

"Consumers didn't benefit from the fall in the real price of oil because consuming governments didn't pass it on," said Mr. Pyne. "But they will probably be cushioned against the dollar's rise for the same reason."

Canadian growth shows momentum

OTTAWA (R) — Canada's real gross domestic product rose at an annual rate of 3.8 per cent in the first quarter of the year, the government said Monday, and at a rate faster than annual forecasts by international organisations.

Government and private sector economists said the numbers show the economy is continuing to pull out of recession, while inflation remains subdued.

"It looks like some momentum is building here," said Ruth Getter, chief economist with the Toronto-Dominion Bank.

The government agency Statistics Canada said, "the first-quarter expansion of economic activity continued the pickup evident in the fourth quarter (of last year)."

The Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development and the International Monetary Fund, both with a 1993 forecast of 3.2 per cent, say Canada will achieve the strongest growth among the major industrialised countries in 1993 and 1994.

The recovery in Canada from recession has been led so far by vigorous exports, which hit a record high in April, but economists now point towards growing consumer demand as well.

"Consumer spending, business outlays for machinery and equipment, and exports all grew substantially and the pace of business investment moderated," the government agency said about first quarter activity.

Faced with inflation, Chinese turn to gold

SHANGHAI (R) — Shanghai residents, threatened by rising inflation, are turning their life savings into gold and U.S. dollars, trusting necklaces and hard cash rather than Peking's efforts to rein in prices.

Throughout history Chinese have hoarded gold in times of crisis. As inflation spirals to dangerous levels in China's major cities, jewellery counters along Shanghai's Nanjing shopping road are packed with customers rummaging through trays of gold earrings, chains and diamond-encrusted rings.

Black-market moneychangers are everywhere, just as they were when the last bout of price rises knocked confidence in the local renminbi currency in the late 1980s.

"What's the point of keeping money in the bank?" asked a middle-aged worker emerging from a deserted branch of the Industrial and Commercial Bank of China clutching wads of frayed bills tied up in string.

Although salary rises are still ahead of inflation, bank savings in China — now equivalent to more than \$200 billion — are being eroded at an alarming rate.

Official statistics released Monday show China's urban cost-of-living index soared by 19.5 per cent in May over May 1992. Nationwide inflation hit 16.7 per cent.

Retail sales in May rocketed by 27.3 per cent. In an ominous sign, the state-controlled China Daily business weekly Sunday reported shortages of foreign brand-name goods and high-

Japan's family income, spending top U.S. and U.K.'s

TOKYO (R) — Japanese household income and spending far exceeds that of families in the United States and Britain, the government's Management and Coordination Agency said Tuesday.

Japanese families had average monthly income of 463,000 yen (\$4,171), while U.S. households received 20 per cent less and British households a huge 40 per cent less, it said.

It was selling at more than \$21 a gramme before it was withdrawn. The less pure 18 carat gold is still being quoted at \$16.8 a gramme.

"You won't find it anywhere in Shanghai," said a busy salesman in Nanjing road boutique called Fashion Gold. "The price is going up all the time and nobody knows when it will peak. If I was foolish enough to sell you 24 carat gold now, I'd be giving money away."

Inflation has sent the price of the U.S. dollar rocketing against the renminbi. Greenbacks are selling on the black market at almost double the official rate of 5.7.

The Shanghai branch of the Bank of China is opening record numbers of foreign exchange accounts every day.

domestic product in the first three months of 1993 exaggerated the real pace of decline.

"There can be no question of a 'free fall' or a cumulative downwards movement..." he said.

Mr. Tietmeyer said the question of whether Germany would deal with its current problem was largely up to Germans themselves.

"If it has the courage to make the necessary corrections, this country can certainly deal with its new challenges," he said. Germany was not condemned to become the "sick man of Europe" just because of unification.

Mr. Tietmeyer rejected as simplistic a view among some critics that stubbornness in monetary policy was to blame for Germany's downturn. Government economic policies, although just

reform, were not generally overvalued, he said.

Foreign banks said to be major players in India scandal

NEW DELHI (R) — A parliamentary panel investigating India's \$1.28 billion securities scandal has said foreign banks played a major part, the United News of India news agency reported Tuesday.

The draft report of the joint parliamentary committee also said the finance ministry should have supervised securities and banking transactions more closely, the agency said.

"In a way they (foreign banks) are the initiators of the scam as well as the major players," the agency quoted the committee's report as saying. "With their tremendous resources, undoubtedly clout and aggressive policies, they can, if they choose, play havoc with the economy."

The operations of all banks in the country should be brought under the scope of parliament, the report recommended. The committee will submit its final

report to parliament next month after discussing the draft report.

The report, as quoted by the agency, did not name the foreign banks involved.

The Reserve Bank of India (central bank) has named them as Standard Chartered Bank, Citicorp's Citibank in Bombay, New Zealand Banking Group's ANZ, Grindlays Bank PLC and Bank of America's Bank of America N.T. S.A.

They were named alongside more than 30 Indian banks, brokers and financial institutions involved in the country's worst financial scandal, in which money was allegedly siphoned from the interbank securities market to the banking system.

The committee report said the finance ministry believed that the stock market boom was a result of India's economic liberalisation and was not untoward.

The belief... had hindered the effective regulation in the working of banks and stock markets," it said. The ministry's failure to ensure adherence to its own instructions contributed significantly to irregularities in securities and banking transactions."

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Both partners and associates in the outside world do not see your point of view so curb your impulsive and be solicitous of their interests.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) You find there are apt to be some points of tension with your fellow associates that could cause unpleasant flare-ups so remain silent if annoyed.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Usually congenial companions and you can be at loggerheads about the entertainment or recreations that you want to engage in today or

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Matters at your home can come to a difficult stalemate unless you make sure you extend the olive branch there to one who is very upset.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) It is essential that you use more than an average care on the highway or in motion in anyway today to avoid potential accidents that could be costly.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) You are apt to spend more than you can afford on a property

interest or where some commitment that quickly strikes your fancy arrives so be economical.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) You are restless and discontented and especially with conditions at your residence but it is certainly not the time to make a scene about them.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) You can be annoyed at not being able to garner some information that you feel is important to your best interests but don't push the issue now.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Take some time out to do something to back friends or acquaintances whose problems you can understand and give some of your good judgment.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Private anxieties have you concerned but it would be unwise to try to settle them now because you would be apt to go too far in a wrong comment.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) You want to do something bizarre or startling to break up a situation that you regard as untenable to your best personal interests but postpone action.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Your day to sidestep any limiting condition that arises and to make no commitments at the moments that are different than what you are experienced to.

THE BETTER HALF.

By Harris



JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

LIQUA

CLOIG

RAKNEC

TALCOE

WHAT THE CAMERA CLUB MEMBERS CALLED THEMSELVES.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer: A

(Answers Monday)

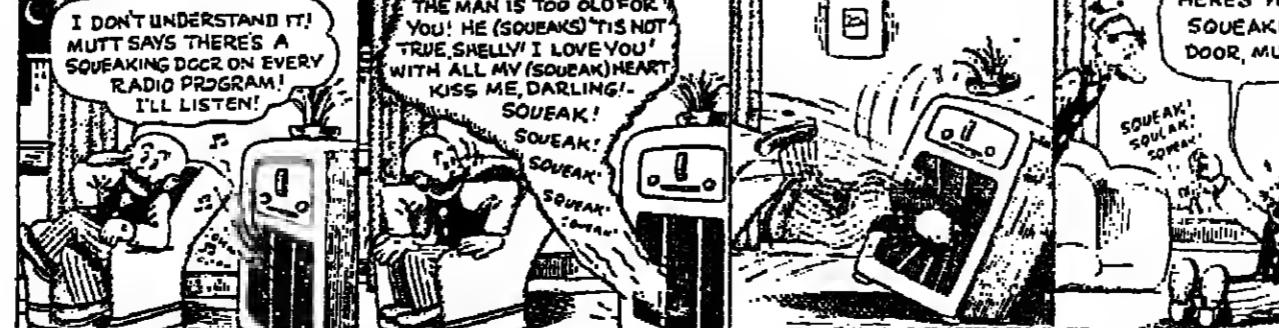
Yesterday's Jumble: PENCE UTER FABLED EFRIGY

Answer: What the new owner of the run-down steakhouse tried to do—BEEF IT UP

Peanuts



Andy Capp



JORDANIAN FINANCIAL MARKET					
HOUSING BANK CENTER - AMMAN - SHIBWEISANI					
ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR TUESDAY 22/06/1993					
COMPANY'S NAME					
TRADED VOLUME	PREV. PRICE	OPENING PRICE	CLOSING PRICE	PRICE	CHG
JD	JD	JD	JD	JD	JD
ABRAH BANK	199,910	166,000	164,500	166,500	
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK	105,370	6,800	6,840	6,800	
CAIRO ARABIAN BANK	82,100	3,900	3,950	3,940	
BANK OF JORDAN	103,200	4,700	4,700	4,740	
JORDAN INVESTMENT BANK	31,530	2,070	2,040	2,060	
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BANK	17,500	2,000	2,000	2,000	
THE HOUSING BANK	16,787	2,990	2,990	2,000	
JORDAN KUWAIT BANK	16,788	4,000	3,950	3,950	
ABRAH BANK FOR SAVING & INVESTMENT	93,230	2,500	2,450	2,100	
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	15,628	5,500	5,500	5,500	
BELT KUWAIT SAVING INVESTMENT FOR HOUSING	270,508	4,400	4,550	4,620	
ABRAH BANK FOR INVESTMENT	12,750	7,250	7,250	7,250	
JORDAN KUWAIT INVESTMENT BANK	807	5,250	5,050	5,020	
PEPSICO INDUSTRIES	103,095	4,060	4,250	4,250	
ABRAH BANK FOR INSURANCE	13,170	2,970	2,800	2,920	
GENERAL ARABIA INSURANCE	30,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	
JORDAN PHRACE INSURANCE	20,012	3,880	3,850	3,870	
ABRAH BANK FOR LIFE INSURANCE	4,442	2,920	2,920	2,950	
JORDANIAN ELECTRIC POWER	42,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	
JORDAN DISTRICT ELECTRICITY	6,012	1,310	1,340	1,380	
JOHNSON CONSULTING SERVICES	1,720	0,590	0,570	0,570	
NATIONAL PORTFOLIO SECURITIES	4,124	4,120	4,120	4,120	
REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT	18,887	1,750	1,750	1,750	
JOHNSON CONSULTING SERVICES	7,558	0,630	0,620	0,600	
PEPSICO ENTERPRISES & PORTFOLIO LEASING	3,250	1,200	1,200	1,200	
JORDAN INTERNATIONAL TRADING CENTER	5,317	1,650	1,600	1,570	
JOHNSON CONSULTING & DEVELOPMENT	31,250	6,500	6,500	6,250	
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES CONSTRUCTION	31,250	6,500	6,500	6,250	
ABRAH INTER. FOR INVESTMENT & EDUCATION	19,759	2,800	2,600	2,600	
ABRAH CONSTR. MATERIAL MANUFACTURING	26,130	2,040	2,000	2,100	
JORDAN PAPER & CARDBOARD FACTORIES	31,250	6,500	6,500	6,250	
JOHNSON CONSULTING SERVICES	17,740	4,500	4,500	4,500	
JORDAN PHARMACEUTICALS	5,049	46,000	50,400	50,400	
ABRAH CONSTR. MATERIALS	2,900	3,000	3,000	3,000	
WOLRD INDUSTRIES	32,270	8,300	8,300	8,300	
THE INDUSTRIAL COMMERCIAL & AGRICULTURAL	32,270	8,300	8,300	8,300	
ARAB PHARMACEUTICAL MANUFACTURING	30,000	6,000	6,000	6,000	
JORDAN GRANITE INDUSTRIES	30,000	6,000	6,000	6,000	
JOHNSON CONSULTING & DEVELOPMENT	3,878	2,460	3,410	2,430	
ABRAH CENTER FOR PHAR. & CHEMICALS	14,150	2,000	2,000	2,000	
JORDAN KUWAIT CO. FOR AGRI. & WOOD PROD.	11,939	1,800	1,800	1,800	
UNIVERSAL INVESTMENT	3,878	3,110	3,100	3,100	
UNIVERSAL MODERN INDUSTRIES	504,417	5,920	5,920	5,980	
GRAND TOTAL	4,664,688				
NO. OF TRADED SHARES IN PARALLEL MARKET	1,062,029				
TRADED VOLUME IN THE PARALLEL MARKET	1,134,757				

Iran guarantees foreign investments in free zones

NICOSIA (R) — Iran will guarantee foreign investments in its free trade zones under a bill approved by the Majlis (parliament) Monday.

The bill also provides incentives including a 15-year tax holiday to attract domestic and foreign funds to help Iran's economy out of its slump.

Tehran Radio said the Majlis had approved the bill after several weeks of debate Monday, its last session before a two-week summer recess.

The bill would provide a legal framework for three free zones designated along Iran's southern coast under its first five-year plan which started in March 1989.

"The flow of capital into and out of the zones and of profit resulting from economic activity there is free," one of the articles of the bill quoted by the radio said.

"The authority in each zone can guarantee foreign investments against expropriation and nationalisation... by its own assets or through contracts with banks and insurance companies," it added.

Foreigners may rent, but cannot buy, land in the zones, according to the bill which has to be ratified by the overseeing Guardian Council before becoming law.

Cash-strapped Iran has been trying to attract foreign funds since switching to free-market policies under President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani after the 1980-88 Iran-Iraq war.

Economists say potential investors, who experienced wholesale nationalisations after the 1979 Islamic revolution, consider Iran too risky and its legal provisions and verbal guarantees of its officials insufficient.

Iran has set up a free trade zone in Kish, a Gulf island which was being developed as a luxury resort under the late shah before the revolution.

Goods transported through Kish are exempted from most import and export regulations.

Apart from companies trading via Kish, thousands of Iranians fly to the island every week to bring back televisions, car spare parts and other goods for a profit.

Iran is advertising Qeshm, its biggest island off Bandar Abbas at the Hormuz Strait, as a free industrial zone which can become a major manufacturing centre thanks to cheap natural gas reserves and a hub of trade with Central Asian states through Iran's rail network which will soon reach Bandar Abbas.

Qeshm is at the early stages of setting in place its infrastructure — international airport, power stations, desalination plants, and a causeway to Bandar Abbas.

A third free zone at Chah Bahar, a port of the Gulf of Oman near the Pakistani border, is even further behind.

Critics in the Majlis have attacked the administration of Kish and Qeshm, saying some of the country's Islamic regulations were ignored there in an attempt to compete with free trade zones across the Gulf.

GCC states have been trying to unify their tariffs, officially put at between four and 20 per cent, since 1983, two years after the alliance was created.

Saudis repatriate \$25 billion invested abroad

MANAMA (R) — About \$25 billion invested abroad has been repatriated to Saudi Arabia in the past two years, a senior Gulf official was quoted as saying.

Saudis sent billions of dollars abroad when Iraq invaded Kuwait in 1990 but returned to the Gulf after the revolution.

Gulf investors also brought funds home as financial returns declined abroad.

"The repatriation is an indication of improvements in economies of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states," the London-based Asharq Al Awsat quoted Abdullah Al Ouwaiz, GCC deputy secretary-general for economic affairs, as saying.

The GCC, an economic and political alliance, groups Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, United Arab Emirates, Oman, Qatar and Bahrain.

Sheikh Ouwaiz said he expected five per cent growth in Gulf economies in 1993. He gave no comparison figure for 1992 but said that was compared with worldwide growth of 3.8 per cent.

He also said the GCC states were heading towards economic integrations by unifying their customs duties imposed on foreign goods.

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Aid convoy enters Bosnia enclave

SARAJEVO (Agencies) — The first United Nations aid convoy for a month reached the stricken Muslim enclave of Gorazde Tuesday with food and medical supplies for its 70,000 inhabitants, U.N. officials said.

Ten trucks carrying 80 tonnes of aid and their armoured escort were waved through the besieging Bosnian Serb army's front lines during a lull in fighting which has cooled since U.N. military observers entered Gorazde last week.

Muslim-controlled Sarajevo Radio earlier accused the Serbs of blocking convoys to try to starve the settlement and its defenders into submission.

Gorazde, blockaded since the start of the civil war almost 15 months ago and nominally a U.N. safe area, is the last Muslim stronghold in eastern Bosnia not to have been captured or neutralised by Serb forces.

Its plight has encouraged the United States to resume efforts to persuade its reluctant European allies to lift an arms embargo on Muslims to help them fight.

U.S. President Bill Clinton appealed to Chancellor Helmut Kohl to throw Germany's weight behind rearming the outgunned Muslims during the European Community summit in

Copenhagen.

But British Prime Minister John Major signalled his government's continuing opposition to lifting the embargo because it would prolong the conflict.

"I want to stop the killing not add to the killing," he told reporters. "I do not believe that lifting the arms embargo and flooding the areas with arms will do anything other than stop any chance of a negotiated settlement."

German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel said the EC wanted the divided Muslims to negotiate with their Croat and Serb rivals who control most of Bosnia but said there should be no settlement at the expense of Muslims.

Talks between the three sides with international mediators will resume in Geneva Wednesday on a plan by the Serb and Croat communities to divide Bosnia into three ethnic states.

The proposal has opened a rift between Muslim President Alija Izetbegovic, who is refusing to go to Geneva, and the rest of his collective presidency which includes Croat and Serb members pledged to a multi-ethnic state.

Mr. Izetbegovic met other members of the presidency in the Croatian capital Zagreb Monday and again Tuesday morning but

refused to drop his boycott.

The collective leadership has voted to take part in Geneva talks on a Serb-Croat plan to carve up their country, overruling President Alija Izetbegovic, one of its members said Tuesday.

Fikret Abdic, a Muslim member of the collective presidency, said it had voted 7-2 to attend the Geneva talks, which are supposed to resume Wednesday. He said Mr. Izetbegovic, who heads the presidency, and his ally, Ejup Ganic, voted "no."

Mr. Abdic disclosed the vote, taken in a meeting that adjourned early Tuesday, as the presidency resumed deliberations on whether to consider a Serb-Croat plan for ethnic partition of Bosnia or continue to wage a losing war.

He said the presidency would propose that foreign ministers from Britain, Denmark and Belgium — the immediate past, future and present holders of the European Community's rotating leadership — attend future talks on Bosnia.

While Mr. Izetbegovic says he has no mandate to discuss the car-up proposed by the Croats and Serbs, rivals in the presidency accused him of irresponsibility for refusing to attend.

Bosnia's Serbs and Croats have

moved closer together since the collapse of a wartime alliance between Muslims and Croats who are now fighting each other for territory in central Bosnia where the proposed Muslim state will be located.

Momcilo Krajsnik, speaker of the Bosnian Serb parliament, said Serbs and Croats had agreed to swap all prisoners and wounded and also allow civilians to be exchanged.

Mr. Krajsnik said also that Serbs wanted the central districts of the mainly Muslim capital Sarajevo.

The Croat Defence Force (HVO) reported it suffered six dead in fighting with Muslims at Kresevo west of Sarajevo in a central region where thousands of Croat civilians have been driven from their homes.

Mr. Izetbegovic, alarmed by the exodus of Croat refugees appealed to them to stay in their homes and for civil and military authorities to protect them.

"Bosnia is a common homeland for Muslim and Croats ... the only obstacle are malicious and mistaken people, and that is why I call on Croats to stay in their homes," he said in an appeal broadcast by Muslim radio.

It is not clear if the proposal has opened a rift between Muslim President Alija Izetbegovic, who is refusing to go to Geneva, and the rest of his collective presidency which includes Croat and Serb members pledged to a multi-ethnic state.

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Azerbaijan rebel troops drift into Baku

BAKU (Agencies) — Groups of Azerbaijani rebel troops appeared in the capital Baku Tuesday and they were apparently unopposed by government forces.

A Reuters correspondent spoke to two small groups of army rebels seated in a Baku restaurant, cursing their rifles, after arriving in the capital from the south.

"It is an unofficial visit. We have come to see friends," one said, adding that he and his comrades intended staying in the city all day.

The rebels said government forces were under orders not to allow them to bring their guns into the city. But no one had attempted to disarm them.

In a further development in the Azerbaijani crisis — which follows an army rebellion in the north on June 4 — political sources in

Haiti army chief willing to meet with Aristide

PONT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (R) — In a last-minute effort to stave off U.N. sanctions, Haiti's army chief has said he was willing to meet with deposed President Jean-Bertrand Aristide to negotiate an end to the nation's political crisis.

In a letter to special U.N. envoy Dante Caputo, General Raoul Cedras said he would be willing to talk with Mr. Aristide at an unspecified time and place, according to local radio.

Gen. Cedras led the bloody September 1991 coup that ousted Mr. Aristide and unleashed a massive wave of political refugees fleeing the small Caribbean nation.

In the letter broadcast on local radio, Gen. Cedras said he was simply responding to the demands of Haiti's lower house of parliament, which had urged him to meet Mr. Aristide.

"The Army High Command has observed some positive elements that make it possible to resume dialogue," said the letter. "The specific mission is to lay the real survival problems the nation faces outside of all narrow and selfish considerations."

The letter was sent just two days before the deadline set by the U.N. for Haiti's military to show progress in negotiations aimed at restoring democracy.

The U.N. Security Council voted last week to impose worldwide sanctions beginning Wednesday on fuel and weapons as well as freeze the government's foreign financial assets.

At the United Nations, diplo-

mats said they believed Gen. Cedras was seeking a meeting with Caputo on the question of Mr. Aristide's return but they had no details yet.

Mr. Caputo has called a meeting for Tuesday morning with representatives from the United States, France, Canada and Venezuela, the four states who have been meeting informally for months on the Haitian crisis.

It remained unclear whether any of Haiti's political leaders would fly to New York for a meeting of all factions recently proposed by Mr. Caputo.

Gen. Cedras' letter did not specifically mention whether he was willing to negotiate the departure of the army-backed government, a key demand by Mr. Aristide supporters.

However, the letter marked the first time that the Army High Command has expressed a willingness to meet with Mr. Aristide.

There was also no indication of where or when a meeting between Gen. Cedras and Mr. Aristide might take place.

Earlier Monday, Senator Ed Dupont, president of the Senate, separately wrote to N. General-Secretary Boutros Boutros-Ghali to propose that negotiations be held in the neighbouring Dominican Republic.

Gen. Cedras last week said he would not attend any U.N. negotiating session because it would be unconstitutional. Some observers have said Gen. Cedras fears he won't be allowed to return to Haiti if he leaves the country.

Closing high-risk reactors is feasible by mid-1990s

LONDON (AP) — Closing high-risk nuclear plants in Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union by the mid-1990s is technically possible, according to a leaked study released Tuesday by Greenpeace.

But many decision-makers in the six countries with high-risk reactors are "pro-nuclear" and favour their continued operation, according to the study attributed to the World Bank and the International Energy Agency.

Since the 1986 nuclear accident at Chernobyl, a growing number of international experts have called for a shut-down of all similar RBMK reactors as well as aging Soviet-designed VVER 440-230 reactors, which cannot meet international safety standards.

Greenpeace said the study was commissioned last year by leaders of the seven major industrialised nations, who expressed concern about the safety of these high-risk reactors in Russia, Ukraine, Armenia, Bulgaria, Lithuania and Slovakia.

Peter Riddleberger, a spokesman for the World Bank in Washington, said a report on options for nuclear power plants had been submitted to the group of seven before their summit in Tokyo on July 9.

"We assume that will be the basis for their discussion," he said. "It's up to them what to do with it."

The study's main conclusion is that it would be technically feasible to improve nuclear safety and replace higher risk nuclear plants in all six countries with alternative electricity supplies by the

mid-1990s.

An estimated \$18 billion would be needed between 1993 and 2000 to upgrade nuclear safety and meet electricity demand, mainly by rehabilitating or building gas-fired power stations, it said.

Greenpeace, which said it obtained a copy of the study, said this conclusion dispelled what it called the myth that Eastern Europe would "freeze in the dark" if its nuclear plants were shut down.

The report noted, however, that while this option is appealing in terms of its lower capital investment and lower nuclear risk, "pro-nuclear" views in the six countries could affect the success and speed of closing high-risk plants by the mid-1990s.

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The switch to gas-fired power stations would be about \$3 billion higher annually than relying on nuclear power, they noted, and many countries view nuclear power as a cheaper long-term option.

The researchers therefore investigated two other scenarios — closing the plants by 2000, and keeping them open for their design life, to some cases until 2010.

The cost to keep the plants open until 2000, upgrade safety, and meet future electricity demand by a combination of existing lower-risk nuclear plants and conventional power plants was estimated at about \$25 billion over the next seven years.

Keeping the plants open for their design life and meeting future electricity demand primarily through new nuclear plants would cost about \$24 billion.

S. African democracy negotiators race against time

JOHANNESBURG (Agencies) — South Africa's democracy negotiators are locked in a race against time Tuesday to agree on key issues ahead of a major meeting Friday due to confirm a date for the country's first non-racial elections.

Violence remains a major point of contention.

The government is demanding the expulsion of the radical black Pan Africanist Congress (PAC) from the talks unless the PAC renounces guerrilla war. The PAC, which draws its support mainly from black township youth, has so far rejected the demand.

An angry confrontation was expected if the government pressed its case.

Police in Natal said the death toll in the strife-torn province had risen to at least 38 in the past five days, adding fresh urgency to the debate on violence.

Peace monitors placed most of

the blame for the latest killings on feuding between supporters of Nelson Mandela's African National Congress (ANC) and its main black rival, Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi's Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP).

Mr. Mandela and Mr. Buthelezi were due to meet face-to-face Wednesday for the first time since April 1991. Ways to curb violence between their supporters was expected to be a key issue in their talks.

"We think the meeting will de-escalate the violence and ameliorate the relations between our organisations," IFP National Chairman Frank Mdala told Reuters.

The ANC said the upsurge in Natal strife was an attempt to sabotage the meeting.

Sources close to the democracy negotiations said the IFP, pro-apartheid Conservative Party (CP) and other conservative groups would propose Tuesday

that Friday's meeting of the negotiating forum be postponed to deal with the violence issue and discuss contentious constitutional matters.

The government and ANC want the forum to ratify April 27, 1994, as the date for the country's first non-racial elections marking the end of 350 years of white domination.

"Friday's meeting must take place if we are to send a signal that the negotiating process is bearing fruit," an ANC delegate said.

Friday's meeting could also give the go-ahead for the installation of a Transitional Executive Council (TEC) by the end of July to prepare for April elections.

The ANC and the government want an election date confirmed and a TEC settled quickly so U.S. President Bill Clinton can lift remaining financial and economic sanctions against South Africa when he meets Mr. Mandela and

Mr. Mbeki. "We are forced in collaboration with other parties to mobilise our own private army."

"We have no choice," said Mr. Mbeki. "We are forced in collaboration with other parties to mobilise our own private army."

He gave no details of the identity of the other parties.

South Africa's extreme right-wing comprises numerous paramilitary groups, the largest being the Afrikaner Resistance Movement with several thousand trained activists.

Ranariddh expects aid for Cambodia

PHNOM PENH (R) — Cambodian election-winner Prince Norodom Ranariddh said Tuesday the creation of a transitional government was going smoothly and he was confident foreign aid would begin to flow soon to maintain essential services.

Arriving in Phnom Penh from Bangkok, Prince Ranariddh said his Royalist Party FUNCINPEC had been given the Finance Ministry in the interim administration to help win foreign aid for bankrupt Cambodia.

"We agreed that FUNCINPEC will take over finance because, I think, maybe as soon as Communists, nationalists, we will be able to get more money from Westerners, from the West," he told reporters.

Large sections of the Cambodian capital have been blacked out for four days and nights because the government cannot afford to buy fuel to run its aged generators.

Disgruntled public servants in southern Cambodia have begun to sell off furniture from their offices because they have not been paid, a government official said.

Incumbent Prime Minister Hun Sen ordered agencies of his Phnom Penh government to protect public property.

"Each agency must faithfully take care of the protection of state property, public property," he said in a council of ministers order distributed Tuesday.

"Any one who damages or acts to lose state property and public property must receive a penalty according to the law."

"It is going very smoothly," Prince Ranariddh said.

He reiterated that the radical Khmer Rouge faction, which tried to disrupt U.N.-run elections last month, would play no role in the interim administration.

Diplomats from the five permanent U.N. Security Council members and six other interested countries met in Phnom Penh last



Prince Norodom Ranariddh Tuesday speaks to the press in Phnom Penh (AFP photo)

week to discuss emergency funds.

Prince Ranariddh's forces were allied with the Khmer Rouge through the 13-year civil war after a Vietnamese invasion in 1978 ousted the Khmer Rouge from power and installed the government that now reports to Mr. Hun Sen.

Mr. Hun Sen told his officials to work at living harmoniously with FUNCINPEC supporters, thousands of whom fled to Phnom Penh in fear of violence when a brief secessionist movement was launched by CPP hardliners after the election.

Officials of the U.N. Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC), which enforced a fragile ceasefire for 16 months and ran the elections, blamed the Phnom Penh government's bankruptcy for the electricity shortages.

"They simply don't have any money," an official said.

Blackouts have been frequent in Phnom Penh for years, but residents say the situation has deteriorated recently.

Flooding that has accompanied the start of the rainy season is adding to the woes of residents.

The French colonial drainage system was used by the Khmer Rouge as a garbage dump and most storm drains have not been cleared.

Bat attacks man asleep in front of TV

LINCOLN, Nebraska (AFP) — A man dozing in front of the television set was woken up by a bat who attacked his face, biting and scratching his mouth and nose. "I woke up and I don't know if it was because of pain or blood running down my face," said Mark Gifford, who woke Saturday to find toothmarks and scratches on his face and a bat flying around his living room. Mr. Gifford brought the bat down with a pillow and it is being tested for rabies.

Renoir fetches \$8.5 million

LONDON (R) — Dealers were optimistic Tuesday that the art market was picking up from a long slump after a Renoir painting sold for \$8.5 million at an auction of impressionist and modern paintings.

Prince Ranariddh has reached an agreement with Hun Sen to share power in an interim administration, which will run Cambodia for three months while the newly-elected National Assembly writes a constitution.

Prince Ranariddh confirmed

Agassi enjoys midsummer dream

WIMBLEDON (Agencies) — Andre Agassi grew up amid the gambling tables of Las Vegas so perhaps it is no surprise the Wimbledon wheel of fortune seems permanently stacked in his favour.

Monday was the longest day of the year in the northern hemisphere and, by every normal shred of tennis logic, was destined to produce anything but a midsummer night's dream for the defending champion.

Yet Germany's Michael Stich, in impressive form as he dispatched Jan Stenermark of the Netherlands in straight sets, played down the significance of Agassi's 7-5, 6-4, 6-0 victory over Bernd Karcher.

"He played a guy who had a virus for the last two weeks and couldn't even play doubles. I don't think that was a real test for him," Stich, the 1991 champion and a winner last week at Queen's Club, said after he had confirmed his own status as a serious rival for the men's title.

Agassi was sidelined for two months before last week because of tendinitis in his right wrist. He was delighted to have got a potentially tricky obstacle out of the way and with the enthusiastic reception he got from the show court crowd.

"This is the second best feeling of my career. The best was winning here last year," the American eighth seed said. "Today I would have played ten sets. I didn't want to leave the court."

Having cleared the awkward first hurdle — not without difficulty for her trailed 5-2 in the first set — Agassi now believes he can play himself into good enough form to have a chance of retaining his title.

Having been beaten by Carl-Uwe Steeb in his first match last week at Halle, Agassi has come into the tournament on the back of a week of intense physical training.

"That is all I have to go on to be honest, coming into this tournament. Now as I get through a match or two then I will be able to start counting on my mental frame of mind."

That view was born out by Karcher, who predicted: "If he can get to the last 16 then he can beat anyone."

Agassi ruled out any suggestion that his wrist injury might force him to pull out of the tournament.

"I still need treatment to keep it healthy. It's an injury that more wear and tear can stimulate," he said.

"They don't suspect that it could swell up with a match or during a tournament but they suspect that over the long haul the abuse that it takes could mean I could not compete."

Agassi now plays Britain's Ross Matheson or Brazilian Joao Cunha Silva and has a comfortable path to the fourth round where he is due to meet Richard Krajicek.

Krajicek, the fastest server on the tour, was a straight sets winner over Niklas Kultf of Sweden.

Stefan Edberg might have lost his status as the bookmaker's favourite after struggling for four sets against Canadian Greg



Defending champion Andre Agassi

Rusedski.

The Swede, bidding for his third Wimbledon title, made hard work of getting past a qualifier who refused to lie down and die but finally clinched victory 6-4, 6-4, 7-6 in a fourth set tiebreak.

Ivan Lendl must have thought he was reliving his worst nightmare as he dropped the first set to qualifier Brian Deneven. But the seventh seed, who crashed out of the French Open in the first round to a qualifier, pulled his game together and ran out a 6-7, 6-4, 6-3 winner.

Jim Courier got his title bid off to a flying start, beating Italy's Gianluca Pozzi 6-0, 7-5, 6-4, but the third seed was still down-playing his chances on a surface where he always been ill at ease.

"Wimbledon for me, it's not my natural surface. It's a crapshoot," the American said. Courier said it would take "a lot of good tennis and a little bit of luck" for him to add this title to recent French Open.

Yet none of the Maleeva's have gone further than the fourth round at either the 1993 Australian or French Opens.

★ Steffi's centre court seat: When Steffi Graf quits playing tennis, she wants to return to Wimbledon as a fan.

The top seed and defending champion has been playing top-flight tennis for 11 years and says she wants to get into wind-surfing or skiing when she stops playing.

"I won't remain in tennis, except for one thing," she said. "I will want to watch Wimbledon."

Gabriela Sabatini was the only one of the major competitors for the women's title in action on the opening day.

The fourth seeded Argentinian beat Carrie Cunningham 7-5, 6-2 but had a much tougher-than-expected battle to win.

Sabatini, who has not won a tournament for over a year, looked much better when she started to attack the net in the second set — a tactic which brought her the only Grand Slam title she has yet to claim at the 1990 U.S. Open.

"I'm feeling very good and I think I am playing a lot better than last year," Sabatini said.

Anke Huber, the German ninth seed who Sabatini should meet in the fourth round, also had to struggle. She beat Cecilia Dahlman of Sweden 11-9 in a second set tiebreak after scraping through the first set 7-5.

Bulgarian sisters Magdalena Maleeva and Manuela Maleeva, seeded tenth and 11th, both came through their first round matches.

WIMBLEDON NOTEBOOK

★ Maleeva everywhere: Congratulations to the Maleeva siblings in making Wimbledon history in 1993.

This is the first time three sisters have been seeded at the championships.

The youngest, Magdalena, is seeded No. 10; oldest Manuela Maleeva-Fraguere is No. 11, and middle sister Katerina is No. 12. The Maleeva's made history earlier in the year when they became the first three sisters to be seeded at a Grand Slam tournament at the Australian Open. They repeated this accomplishment at the recent French Open.

Yet none of the Maleeva's have gone further than the fourth round at either the 1993 Australian or French Opens.

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Bulls' win sparks violence in Chicago

CHICAGO (AFP) — At least two people were killed and more than 600 arrested after the hometown Bulls won the National Basketball Association championship for the third consecutive year, police said Monday.

The Bulls' historic victory Sunday night was settled by a dramatic three-pointer with just four seconds left to play, pushing the Bulls over the top with a narrow 99-98 win over the Phoenix Suns.

As the match began, Chicago put thousands of extra police on patrol and spent at least one million dollars to prevent a repeat of last year's riots that erupted after the Bulls' second NBA win.

An 18-year-old man was shot and killed while riding around town in a car celebrating the victory, after a group of 30 people attacked the car and dragged the occupants out, police said.

Another passenger was reported in serious condition after being stabbed.

On the south side, a 26-year-old woman was killed by a stray bullet while celebrating with a group of friends, according to police, who also reported that two girls were wounded while driving down a street on the north-west side.

Some 645 people were arrested and six police were injured by crowds who threw rocks and bottles at them, but police said this was an improvement on last year when 1,000 people were arrested and 107 police were hurt.

Thousands of fans greeted the Bulk when their flight arrived at O'Hare International Airport just after 3 a.m. from Phoenix, Arizona.

Several hundred people participated in a street between police roadblocks as two trombones played the Bulls theme song.

Looting was reported all over the city association some people in the crowd knocked items off store shelves, toppled newspaper stands and broke windows.

World Cup will be a success — but nothing will change

NEW YORK (AP) — U.S. soccer officials showed this year that they will be able to fill every seat at the 1994 World Cup. They also showed they have made no progress toward their ultimate goal — starting a major professional league.

When FIFA awarded the World Cup to the United States on July 4, 1988, the governing body's goal was to jump-start the sport in the United States.

However, soccer officials haven't been willing to market the sport in traditional American ways. The six U.S. Cup '93 games averaged 47,793 tickets sold, but there has been no widespread increase in general interest and no long-term financial commitments from sponsors.

Soccer observers, fans and even a few U.S. World Cup officials all said similar things during the two-week warmup tournament that concluded Saturday: Next year's World Cup will be a success and nothing will change.

There hasn't been a major outdoor soccer league in the United States since the North American Soccer League folded after the 1984 season, and there are few realistic places to play. U.S. soccer officials, who at first said there would be a league by 1994, were told by FIFA last week to deliver a plan by December.

Even the U.S. team has image problems. While Brazil coach Carlos Alberto Parreira spoke in English, U.S. coach Bora Milutinovic mostly spoke Spanish and used a translator, making it difficult for U.S. television stations to put him on the air. Thomas Dooley, who scored one goal for the United States against England and two against Germany, is just learning English after getting a U.S. passport last year.

We probably would have suffered a similar fate in a pair event. What about the team in 1994?

Unless we desperately needed a point or two, we could make certain of our contract. After winning the first trick, we would simply lead hearts from dummy to force out the ace and queen. That way we would be guaranteed one spade, three hearts, four diamonds and two clubs — 10 tricks in all.

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Al Ahli dethrone Al Orthodoxi 85-61 to clinch Jordan Basketball Championship

By Aleen Bannayan
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Al Ahli Tuesday proved that a five-month delay and a controversy-ensnared competition had not weakened their resolve or spoiled their appetite to score a big win dethroning the Kingdom's basketball championship titleholders, Al Orthodoxi, 85-61 to clinch the 1992 championship title.

Although Hilal Barakat virtually carried the burden of leading his team as he scored 31 of Al Orthodoxi's 61 points, Al Ahli's win stressed the well-known fact that basketball is a team game rather than a one man show.

The match was played at the Sports Palace court under the patronage of Her Royal Highness Princess Aisha and was attended by His Royal Highness Prince Ali, Sharifa Zein Bent Naser, Minister of Youth Abdullaah Owaidat and over 2000 basketball fans.

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Under the accords, international sports federations risk being kicked out of Olympic competition unless they agree to apply uniform methods and sanctions for doping, including a minimum two-year suspension for use of performance-enhancing drugs.

Athletes who contest doping suspensions or other decisions will have recourse to a new, independent supreme council of international sport arbitration.

With the litigious United States in mind, athletes will be required to agree in advance to settle any disputes by arbitration and not by legal suit.

The agreements were reached during a special joint meeting of the International Olympic Committee executive board and the council of the Association of Summer Olympic International Federations (ASOIF).

On drugs, the officials moved



Al Ahli's team

and retain their title. Bushnaq and Shamali continued to score as Al Ahli still led 50-35.

Al Ahli succeeded in covering many turnovers and loose balls to maintain a commanding lead of 58-35.

The younger Barakat brother, Hilal, depended on three-pointers in an effort to minimise Al Orthodoxi's loss.

Supported by a huge number of fans, Al Ahli continued to score by Bushnaq and Zaghool, while Hilal Barakat scored 9 consecutive points as Al Orthodoxi still trailed 71-54.

Ma'touq scored another three-pointer to give his team a 68-65.

20 point lead with 2.30 minutes remaining.

A three-pointer by Jihad Saliba was the last of Al Orthodoxi's score as Al Ahli's Murad scored two free throws ending the match with an 85-61 win to clinch the title they last won in 1990.

Al Jazireh finished third in the 1992 championship, which was put on hold since Jan. 26 after a controversial 84-81 Orthodoxi win in overtime. As officials failed to resolve the protest of the much-disputed match and agreed to play a final deciding game, Al Ahli had won the first round match

IOC officials reach 'historic' agreement on doping, litigation

LAUSANNE (AP) — The Olympic movement, taking decisive action on two of sport's most pressing issues, agreed Monday to unify doping rules and penalties and set up a special arbitration system to keep athletes out of civil courts.

The two bodies agreed that unified rules and procedures for doping controls, both during and out of competition, should be applied to all sports federations.

All sports should impose a minimum punishment of two years for drug use, with individual federations free to impose stiffer punishment if they wish.

"I would say this is a historic step," said Prince Alexandre de Merode, president of the IOC medical commission. "We have followed up words with real action."

All federations will be asked to adopt the IOC's list of banned substances. Federations should recognize drug bans imposed by other federations in order to prevent a suspended athlete in one sport from trying to compete in another. Financial assistance will be provided to any federation needed help to intensify their anti-doping controls.

The new arbitration council will be headed by 20 international

jurists, who will designate specially-qualified arbitrators to hear the cases. The IOC, the federations, the national Olympic committees and the athletes will each select four jurists. Those 16 jurists will select four others.

Athletes who have exhausted their appeals within their individual federations will be able to go to the new arbitration panel for a binding decision.

"The decisions of the arbitration tribunal will be equivalent to the final decision of an ordinary civil appeals court," said IOC director general Francois Carrard.

The most controversial element of the system is the requirement that athletes formally agree to settle their disputes out of civil court.

Carrard said athletes would retain a right to go to court after the arbitration process, but only in the limited cases of "gross violation of due process, fundamental rights or public order."

Officials said the arbitration system was particularly important considering the next summer games will be in the United States, in Atlanta in 1996.

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Iraq hits sanctions as violation of rights

VIENNA (Agencies) — The United Nations' comprehensive sanctions against Iraq are "iniquitous" and a "flagrant violation of human rights," the Iraqi justice minister told the World Conference on Human Rights here Tuesday.

Shahid Al Maliki said the continued blockade, first imposed by the U.N. Security Council after Iraq invaded Kuwait in 1990, was a "flagrant abuse of power and a crime of genocide perpetrated against an entire people."

Rising to speak while the conference was discussing human rights" being used as a political weapon, Mr. Maliki asked: "Where are the human rights called for by the influential members of the Security Council...?"

"These countries," he continued, "do not find it enough to have inflicted all the destruction that they did (on) Iraq's civil and economic infrastructure."

He accused the Security Council of "claims of grave violations of human rights in Iraq to create pretexts for interference in Iraq's internal affairs."

He urged the conference to speak out against foreign interference "under the pretext of protection of human rights."

"The continued imposition of this blockage constitutes a violation of the universality of human rights, suppression of all Iraqi human rights, a flagrant abuse of the use of power and a crime of genocide perpetrated against an entire people," Mr. Maliki told the conference.

"The people of Iraq suffer to day from shortages in food, medicine and medical requirements... the blockage of causing thousands of lives to be lost among women and the elderly."

he added.

Delegates from more than 160 countries are attending the Vienna conference to try to hammer out a comprehensive document that would make the principles of human rights universally binding on all states, regardless of political, economic, cultural or religious differences.

Baghdad is trying to negotiate an end to the U.N. sanctions because of rising domestic pressure against the government of President Saddam Hussein, Middle East diplomats said in Geneva on Monday.

They were commenting on a meeting between U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali and Iraq's Deputy Prime Minister Tareq Aziz. Both agreed the U.N. would pursue talks on all issues arising out of the sanctions.

Under the sanctions ruling, Iraq is allowed to sell limited amounts of oil to pay for humanitarian supplies but Baghdad has so far refused to do so unless all sanctions are lifted.

Mr. Maliki accused "influential members of the Security Council" — meaning the United States and its Western allies — of using alleged human rights violations in Iraq as a pretext for continuing the sanctions.

Iraq also joined China and other Asian and Middle East countries, including its regional rival Iran, in rejecting moves at the conference to promulgate a universal of human rights and to establish a U.N. high commission for human rights.

These countries say that Western human rights standards cannot and should not be imposed on countries with different cultural, economic or religious values.

Israeli group challenges Rabin

TEL AVIV (R) — The Association for Civil Rights in Israel (ACRI) said Tuesday it had been labelled an "enemy of the people" by Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and accused him of setting back the cause of human rights.

At a news conference, ACRI Chairwoman Ruth Gavison challenged the Rabin government to put into law international human rights covenants in the coming year, including the Fourth Geneva Convention covering occupied territory.

"The difference in the effectiveness of human rights protection... would be immense," she said.

The ACRI's annual report, presented at the news conference, summarised its efforts for Israelis and Palestinians in the occupied territories.

It assailed as "pernicious" Mr. Rabin's statement attacking the ACRI for challenging his expulsion last December of 415 Palestinians to Lebanon, including alleged activists of the Islamic resistance movement Hamas.

The prime minister condemned us (the) as 'the association for the rights of Hamas,'" Mr. Gavison said. "Obviously it's not a trivial thing for an organisation like us to be labelled an enemy of the people by the prime minister."

"We feel that the statements by the prime minister were very well received in the general population and helped delegitimise the 12 EC countries, diplomats said.

ACRI lost the supreme court fight to overturn Mr. Rabin's Dec. 17 expulsion of the alleged Muslim activists.



12TH MECHANISED DIVISION: His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Tuesday visits one of the formations of the 12th Royal Mechanised Division, where he was received by the commanders of the division and the formation and senior officers. After a briefing on the duties assigned to the formation, Prince Hassan visited several units and was familiarised with their training activities. The Crown Prince was accompanied on the visit by the chief of staff of the Land Forces

EC pledges men and money for Bosnia Muslim safe areas

COPENHAGEN (Agencies) — European Community (EC) leaders, struggling to patch together their battered policy on Bosnia-Herzegovina, pledged Tuesday to provide troops and money for the protection of Muslim "safe areas."

The pledge came to a communiqué at the end of the community's two-day summit which highlighted divisions on Bosnia policy. It was inserted only after a lengthy debate among leaders of the 12 EC countries, diplomats said.

The text said that the scheme to protect six Serb-besieged Muslim areas, authorised by the UN, was an "indispensable contribution" to an overall settlement of the Bosnia conflict.

"The European Council decided to respond positively to the request of the U.N. secretary general for men and money," it said.

"It urged member states to comply with that request within their abilities. At the same time, it appeals to other members of the international community to do likewise."

U.N. Secretary General Boutros Ghali has requested an additional 7,500 U.N. troops to protect the safe areas on top of the 7,700 already guarding relief operations in Bosnia.

"But until now no EC country had volunteered to send additional troops and plans included the dispatch of Tunisian, Pakistani and Scandinavian soldiers."

Diplomats said French President Francois Mitterrand, whose country has some 5,000 troops in

the former Yugoslavia, made a strong call here for the EC states to contribute troops to the safe areas plan.

The North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) has already agreed to supply air cover but Mr. Mitterrand said that without the troops, the world community might well tear up the U.N. Security Council resolution, arm the Muslims and repatriate humanitarian troops.

The EC's policy was already in tatters after the collapse of its joint effort with the United Nations to negotiate a settlement that would keep Bosnia a multi-ethnic state divided into 10 provinces.

The latest efforts have focused on a proposal to make Bosnia a confederation of Serb, Croat and Muslim nations as proposed last week in Geneva by Serbia and Croatia. EC officials were pushing their own version of the scheme.

The EC leaders rebuffed a German proposal to lift an arms embargo against Bosnia.

The EC's failure to take a stronger stance puts pressure on Bosnia's Muslim president, Alija Izetbegovic, to attend Wednesday's talks in Geneva and negotiate a Serb-Croat proposal to carve Bosnia-Herzegovina into three ethnic regions.

Bosnia's collective leadership on Tuesday overruled Mr. Izetbegovic and decided that Bosnia should attend the talks.

Producing a letter of support from President Bill Clinton, German Chancellor Helmut Kohl urged the community to press the United Nations to lift an arms embargo in order to help Muslim forces repel advances by Serbs and Croats.

"If we don't help them, then we have to give them the chance to help themselves," Dieter Voth, a spokesman for German Chancellor Helmut Kohl, said Tuesday. "It is not just a question of politics, it's a question of morals."

But Britain, harked by France, called the proposal a "recipe for chaos." Prime Minister John Major said.

The communiqué capped a summit that featured divisions over the question of troops for the safe areas and the arms embargo. Diplomats said that EC leaders had a heated discussion on Bosnia over dinner Monday night and the debate continued on Tuesday.

Egyptians greet Sudanese marchers

KHARTOUM (R) — About 400 Sudanese marched in protest to a disputed border area and Egyptian soldiers allowed them in and treated them like guests, diplomats said on Tuesday.

"The Egyptians were smart," said a Western diplomat.

"They greeted the protesters," said "ahlan wa sahan," "please sit down and have a drink after your long journey. Welcome to our Arab guests."

A convoy of about 50 trucks set out from Port Sudan last week for the Halabja triangle, a remote patch of desert on the Red Sea claimed by Egypt and Sudan. Khartoum's official news agency SUNA reported.

The decades-old dispute flared up again last year, worsening already tense ties between Cairo and Khartoum's Islamic rulers, when Sudan granted a Canadian firm an oil concession there.

Since then Egypt, which says it allowed Sudan to run Halabja but never conceded sovereignty, has sent troops to seal it off and surround three Sudanese police posts which watch over nomadic tribes.

The convoy was greeted by Sudanese provincial commissioner Colonel Mohammad Al Ghassem, SUNA said. Egyptian troops first stopped it south of the town but let it through after several hours of talking.

The protesters gathered in a square in Halabja chanting "Allahu Akbar" and dancing. Most were due to leave over the weekend, the agency added.

Sudanese officials say Egypt's strategy is to choke off slowly the remnants of Sudan's administration while avoiding direct conflict.

The Egyptian army is building a sand rampart along the 22nd Parallel at the southern tip of the triangle and is camped in some places next to the Sudanese police posts.

EC discusses relief

A European Community (EC) aid mission said Tuesday it was trying to persuade Sudanese leaders to open up telief corridors to let in food for half a million people trapped in southern Sudan's civil war.

"The humanitarian situation in the south is extremely grave," said Denmark's Development Minister Helle Degen.

Mr. Degen arrived in Khartoum on Tuesday with senior officials from Britain and Belgium after visits to several war and famine zones in the south.

COLUMN

Republicans paying Bush, Reagan \$12,500 each month

WASHINGTON (R) — Former U.S. Presidents Ronald Reagan and George Bush have received special \$12,500 monthly retainers from the Republican Party for political work, party chairman Haley Barbour said Monday. He confirmed reports the party had been paying Mr. Reagan a year

— since he left office in 1989 and has also started paying Mr. Bush \$12,500 a month for any political work for the party he may eventually do. But Bush spokesman Andrew Card, who was transportation secretary under Mr. Bush, said the former president last week returned the \$62,500 paid to him by the party so far and would refuse further payments. Mr. Card attributed Mr. Bush's decision to "his decision not to get involved in politics or Clinton-bashing right off the bat."

He is going to give President Bill Clinton a chance. He has great respect for the presidency and he wants to see the presidency succeed."

"If only Japan premier would die..."
minister jokes

TOKYO (R) — A Japanese cabinet minister has said the beleaguered ruling party would stand a better chance in next month's elections if Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa dropped dead. "If by any chance Mr. Miyazawa dies, then the LDP will win a landslide victory," Foreign Minister Katsuhiko Muto told a Tokyo seminar. His audience of business leaders immediately burst out laughing. "Considering his good health, though, we can't expect that to happen," Mr. Muto said with a grin. Mr. Muto was comparing Mr. Miyazawa's parliamentary defeat last Friday which triggered the July 18 election call, with the last time a prime minister lost a no-confidence vote in 1980. Then too the Liberal Democratic Party was deeply unpopular with voters over a money scandal and looked likely to lose power.

Clinton says he is trying to reach 'half-brother'

WASHINGTON (R) — President Bill Clinton said Monday that he is trying to get in touch with a California man who says he is the president's half-brother, a relative the president apparently never knew about. Mr. Clinton, in an interview with radio station WCBS in New York, declined a direct comment on the claims made by Henry Ritzenthaler, 55, saying he wanted to talk to him first. "I would be glad to give a reaction but let me say I've tried to call him today and have not talked to him and I think I'll talk to him before I make any public statement," he said. Mr. Ritzenthaler, of Paradise, California, said in an interview with the Washington Post Sunday that he and Mr. Clinton, 46, share the same father, William Jefferson Blythe. Mr. Blythe divorced Mr. Ritzenthaler's mother and later married Virginia Cassidy. Mr. Clinton's mother, who has said that she never knew that her husband had been previously married or had fathered another son, Adele Gash Coffelt of Apple Valley, California, told the Washington Post that she married Mr. Blythe in Texas in 1935, and that her son was conceived in 1938. The Post said public records, including marriage and Mr. Blythe's birth certificates, back up Mr. Coffelt's version of events.

Heseltine has comfortable night after heart attack

ROME (R) — British Trade and Industry Secretary Michael Heseltine spent a comfortable night and is in good spirits after suffering a heart attack in Venice. A British embassy spokesman said Tuesday. "He's cheerful, his condition is satisfactory and he saw his wife this morning," the spokesman said. Routine tests were being conducted but there was no word on how long the 60-year-old minister would have to stay in Venice's main hospital, he added. An update on Mr. Heseltine's condition would be issued about 11:30 a.m. (0930 GMT), he said. Mr. Heseltine was taken ill Sunday night during a private visit to Venice. Known in Britain as "Tarzan" for his rousing oratory and shock of blond hair, Mr. Heseltine has been under pressure since he announced the closure of 31 coal pits in November, a move which triggered a furore and forced a government climbdown.

Pat Nixon dies at 81

WASHINGTON (AP) — Pat Nixon, the uncomplaining silent partner in Richard Nixon's quarter century of political triumph and disgrace, died of lung cancer Tuesday at the Nixon home in New Jersey.

She was 81 and had suffered from lung disease for years.

The former president and their daughters, Tricia Nixon Cox and Julie Nixon Eisenhower, were with the former first lady when she died.

Funeral services were set for Saturday at the former president's library in Yorba Linda, California according to a statement from Mr. Nixon's office that announced the death.

In their 53 years of marriage — their anniversary was Monday — through the dark years of Watergate, through the pain of his resignation from the presidency — the former Thelma Catherine Ryan was at Mr. Nixon's side, never showing in public how much it hurt.

"Pat" was only a nickname, bestowed by her father because she was born the day before St. Patrick's Day.

Mrs. Nixon's health had not been good since a Friday morning in 1974 when a helicopter carried the Nixons from the White House. A major stroke in 1976 left her with a paralysed left side and Mr. Nixon suggested that the sudden illness was linked to her having read "The Final Days" — a harsh account of the Watergate scandal.

"Mrs. Nixon read it, and her stroke came three days later," he said. "This doesn't indicate that that caused the stroke... but it sure didn't help."

The former first lady made a painful recovery through exercise and physical therapy. But that first stroke — there was another, milder one, in 1983 — began a series of illnesses.

There were repeated hospitalisations for asthmatic bronchitis, bronchial pneumonia and lung infections and she underwent surgery in 1987 to remove a small cancerous tumor from her mouth.

Mr. Nixon revealed in a 1993 interview that she also suffered from emphysema. The public did not know, but she had been a smoker in private.

Algerian strategist killed after regime unveils reform blueprint

ALGIERS (Agencies) — Leading politician and strategist Mohammad Boukhobza was assassinated here Tuesday in a knife attack, one day after ruling council unveiled a blueprint for sweeping reforms.

A member of the National Conference, which replaced parliament after the cancellation of elections in December 1991, Mr. Boukhobza was recently designated head of the military-backed authorities' "think tank," the National Institute of Strategic Ideas (INESG).

He was the second INESG head to be killed, his predecessor Djillali Labyes having been assassinated in March.

Mr. Boukhobza died of his wounds after being stabbed early Tuesday at his home in the centre of Algiers in the presence of his two children, who had been tied up by the killer, the source added.

No one claimed responsibility for the killing.

His wife, the director of a primary school near the family home, was informed of the assassination in her office, the source added.

Mr. Boukhobza, 52, a sociologist and author of an analysis of the causes of riots led by young Algerians in 1988, is the sixth leading establishment figure since March to die in attacks attributed to armed Islamic fundamentalists.

The other victims included Labyes, who was also higher education minister, and peacekeeping writer and journalist Tahar Djedjout.

The killing comes a day after Algerian authorities put forward a draft plan to hold presidential and parliamentary elections by 1996 as part of the country's transition to democratic rule.

Islamic militants have been waging a low-level guerrilla war against the regime since the fundamentalist Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) was banned after being tipped to win the 1991 elections. The revolt has claimed hundreds of lives.

The reform plan includes changing leadership and constitu-

tion over the next two to three years, promising a modern Muslim, democratic state with a free-market economy.

The period of change will start at the latest by the end of this year when the five-man presidency quits, two years after taking over when an experiment with democracy went wrong.

The official news agency APS gave details of a draft sent to political parties and other organisations before a national conference to seek consensus for the "democratic management of the transition."

The blueprint was drawn up by the presidency, or High Council of State (HCE), after three rounds of dialogue with political parties and other groups.

Algeria is under a state of emergency, with no parliament, a widespread night curfew, and laws passed by decree.

APS said the draft planned a transition period of at least two years and no more than three. During this time, the country will be led by a new presidential body whose makeup was not specified.

One of the companies cotang-

led in the Dotan case was General Electric (GE), which pleaded guilty a year ago in a Cincinnati district court to felony fraud charges involved in sales of military aircraft to Israel in the 1980s.

GE also agreed to pay \$69 million in criminal and civil fines.

Israeli officials say this will hike the prices of arms deals and possibly